# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-93-034 23 February 1993

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## Islamic Affairs

### Muslim World League Statement Issued for Ramadan

*LD2102020093 Riyadh SPA in English 1924 GMT 20 Feb 93*

[Text] Mecca, Feb 20, SPA—The Muslim World League (MWL) has called on Muslims everywhere to discard differences, disputes, weakness and following anti-Islamic whims.

In a statement issued here today on the occasion of the near beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, the league confirmed that the Islamic nation is currently passing through a critical phase in its history that needs serious reconsideration of its attitudes to be able to overcome hardships and resolve crises.

It called on Afghan brothers to lay down their arms and listen to the voice of reason, wisdom and conscience, and follow the rulings of Allah's holy book and the teachings of his apostle.

The statement called for unifying efforts to support the Palestinian cause and liberate Palestine from Zionist occupiers and bolster Indian Muslims who are facing savage attacks on their mosques and their creed by extremists.

It also pointed to the tragedy of Bosnian Muslims who are facing a horrible aggression and unprecedented ethnic cleansing operations.

The league urged Muslim peoples and governments to participate in restoring stability in Somalia and imposing reconciliation on warring factions. It also urged them to work together to restore stability in many Muslim countries that suffer from tumult, wars, and inhumane practices in Africa, Asia and Europe.

It urged Muslims to give all the money and donations they can give, in the month of goodness and charity, to aid thier catastrophe-struck brothers and alleviate their suffering.

## Palestinian Affairs

### Agreement Said Reached on Deportees, Talks

*TA2202141593 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 22 Feb 93 p 1*

[Text] AL-MANAR has learned that after returning to Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will announce the date of the ninth round of negotiations—in the middle of April—and Israel's commitment to repatriate all the deportees by the end of June. Agreement on this was reached between Washington and elements of the Arab side. During a telephone contact, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin promised the U.S. President to accept this agreement. Israel will not transfer the deportees to Israel or to the security zone until the conclusion of the deportation period at the end of June. At the same time, Damascus has informed the U.S. secretary of its readiness to host the deportees temporarily.

### Palestinian Memo 'Demands' to Christopher Listed

*TA2202141193 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 22 Feb 93 p 1*

[Text] The Palestinian delegation that will meet the U.S. secretary of state will deliver to him a memorandum containing three demands:

1. Solving the deportee issue.

2. Effecting changes in Israel's stance toward the peace talks.

3. Abolishing Israel's decision to divide the occupied territories into three parts.

It has been learned that differences broke out during the selection of members of the Palestinian delegation to meet Warren Christopher.

### More on Contents of Memo

*TA2302140493 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 23 Feb 93 pp 1, 7*

[By special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Jerusalem—An informed source has said that the Palestinian delegation, which is expected to meet this evening with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, will present to him a five-point memorandum that can be summarized as follows:

1. Emphasizing the Palestinian side's commitment to the peace process and calling on the U.S. Administration to work toward implementing Security Council Resolution 799 calling for the immediate return of all the Palestinian deportees.

2. Demanding respect for human rights in the occupied territories. The delegation will illustrate to the U.S. secretary the conditions which residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are experiencing.

3. Emphasizing the need of the resumption of dialogue between the PLO and the United States.

4. Providing a full analysis of the evolution of the peace process and calling for a change in the Madrid Conference formula regarding Palestinian representation. Namely, adopting a new formula that ensures the participation of Palestinians from the diaspora and Jerusalem in the peace process.

5. Providing a full explanation of the deteriorating economic situation in the occupied territories and demanding that they be considered an international

responsibility and that funds from abroad be allocated to aid in the development of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian delegation which will meet with the U.S. secretary at noon today at the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem will consist of Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Mahir al-Masri, 'Ali al-Qawasimi, Furayh Abu-Middyan, Ghassan al-Khatib, and Zahirah Kamal.

In a related development, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokesman of the Palestinian delegation, has said that al-Husayni will deliver to the U.S. secretary of state a written message from PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

## PLO Calls Administration's Line 'Not Serious'

*PM2302094993 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 19 Feb 93 p 4*

[Fathi al-Barqawi report: "Faruq Qaddumi Tells AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI: Alignment With Israel Is Distinguishing Feature of Washington's Attitude"]

[Text] Tunis, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—The Central Committee of Fatah, the biggest PLO faction, concluded its three-day meeting as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was beginning his tour of the Middle East. The topics discussed included the peace process and the U.S. secretary of state's tour in particular.

Faruq Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf), PLO Executive Committee member, head of the PLO's Political Department, and Fatah Central Committee member, has stated that the new U.S. Administration's moves so far in connection with finding a just and peaceful settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict are not serious.

In an exclusive statement to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI Abu-al-Lutf said that alignment with Israel was the clear feature of Washington's position at this stage. He confirmed that the talks held by Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, with U.S. State Department officials produced nothing, which meant that the U.S. line was not positive.

Commenting on Christopher's current tour, the Palestinian official said that the signs were that the visit was a routine one and therefore would not change the current situation much.

Abu-al-Lutf did not express any surprise at reports of a decline in the level of Arab coordination. He said that "such a decline in Arab coordination is not strange," but he expressed the view that the improvement of inter-Arab relations would be a positive development after the divisions which occurred in the wake of the Gulf war. He said he was optimistic that they would improve further and rise to better levels.

Qaddumi warned against casting doubt on the Arab positions. He noted that the Arabs were eager to find a solution to the Palestinian problem because they knew that it was the main issue and that without progress on the Palestinian track there can be no fundamental progress on the other Arab tracks. He emphasized that even if the Arab delegations did go to Washington to resume the bilateral negotiations with Israel, they would not continue to participate in these negotiations without the Palestinian delegation.

As regards Palestinian participation in the negotiations, the head of Palestinian diplomacy linked that to two conditions:

1. Finding an urgent solution to the issue of the Palestinian deportees that would ensure their repatriation.

2. A change in the Israeli negotiating position and in the occupation army's practices in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The following question was addressed to him verbatim: Can I quote you as saying that the Palestinian negotiating delegation would not go to Washington to participate in the ninth round of the negotiations if the deportees issue is not resolved?

Abu-al-Lutf replied: It is very difficult to go to the negotiations while this issue remains unresolved. Furthermore, Israel should submit positive proposals and plans different from what was proposed in the previous eight rounds, otherwise the negotiations will go around in a vicious circle. After the experience we have had, we should not make the mistake of continuing to chatter and waste time.

Asked if it was really unusual for the president of the UN Security Council to issue a statement blessing the U.S.-Israeli agreement on the deportees, Abu-al-Lutf said that, in his view, the Council's president was giving an account of what went on between him and Yacobi, the Israeli delegate, and that his statement was binding on nobody and did not express the views of the Council members. He noted the statement made by the French Government's official spokesman clearly stating that Paris was not bound by it.

Abu-al-Lutf said that other topics discussed by Fatah's Central Committee included Fatah's internal affairs as well as the need to boost the national struggle of the Palestinian people and strengthen unity at home and abroad, and that this last item was discussed extensively.

The topics discussed also included the Arab situation, and it was agreed that Arab solidarity should be enhanced and that it was important to eliminate the differences "in the hope that the wound would heal."

## 'Ashrawi Affirms Unchanging Stand on Deportees

*JN2202101393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA)—A diplomatic Palestinian source has denied that the PLO has encouraged

proposals by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher concerning the Palestinian deportees and the settlement negotiations.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, Najah 'Abd-al-Rahman, assistant to the Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad, said that Hanan 'Ashrawi [Palestinian spokeswoman to the Arab-Israeli peace talks] affirmed to the U.S. secretary before the beginning of his Middle East tour that the PLO rejects any measure aimed at partial repatriation of the deportees.

He added that 'Ashrawi informed Christopher of the PLO's refusal to start any round of negotiations unless the Zionist entity implements UN Security Council Resolution 799. He indicated that the U.S. secretary's statement in Amman to the effect that he has successfully convinced the Palestinians to approve a proposal for scheduling the return of the deportees is unfounded.

The Palestinian source affirmed that the PLO's stand is firm and rejects any solution other than the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799.

### Palestinians View U.S. Proposal Positively

*TA2202175093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Text] Palestinian leaders in the territories are taking a positive view of the U.S. secretary of state's compromise proposal to resolve the problem of the deportees. The heads of the Palestinian delegation continued their consultations in East Jerusalem today in anticipation of their meetings with Secretary Christopher tomorrow and on Wednesday [24 February]. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports from the studio:

Palestinian leaders in the territories, including Faysal al-Husayni, this evening termed the U.S. secretary of state's proposal as a step forward toward a solution of the problem of the deportees and as removing the obstacles prior to the resumption of the peace talks. One prominent Palestinian stressed that the proposal derives its importance from the fact that it was made by the Americans. According to him, despite the Israeli Government's lack of comment on the proposal, if the Americans want them to, the Israelis will accept it.

Foreign news agencies reported that, according the proposal raised by Secretary Christopher in his talks in Amman and Damascus, two-thirds of the deportees would be allowed to return until the date mentioned for the resumption of the talks in April, while the other third would be allowed to return by August of this year.

In any event, the Palestinians continued today with their consultations in anticipation of the meetings with Secretary Christopher, the issues on the agenda being a solution of the problem of the deportees prior to dealing with the peace process and setting a date for a resumption of the talks.

Faysal al-Husayni said this evening that this will be a first meeting with the new secretary of state and noted that he had spoken with him on the phone on two occasions in the past few weeks to discuss the peace process. The Palestinian leaders further stressed that Christopher's proposal requires the approval of the PLO, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and the deportees themselves.

### 'Arafat: Resumption of U.S.-PLO Talks Sought

*LD2302102193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat affirmed that the Palestinian delegation, which will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, will hand Christopher a message addressed to the U.S. Administration which includes an official request to revive the dialogue between Washington and the PLO. [passage omitted]

### Abu-Sharif: Deportees, Talks Not To Be Linked

*TA2202172793 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 21 Feb 93 p 2*

[By Samir Sa'd-al-Din]

[Text] Tunis—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to the Palestinian president, arrived in London yesterday to hold talks with a number of British officials over the peace process.

Abu-Sharif said that the Middle East peace process will not stop because the region's stability is vital and because it is in the interest of the Arabs and the United States.

Abu-Sharif explained that continuation of the peace process stems not only from the desire of the parties participating in it but from the nature of international conditions that impose themselves on the Middle East region.

Abu-Sharif said that the region's statesmen are aware that, since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the world has been standing on one leg. They have to bear this in mind, which means they must realize that to a large extent it is the United States that is the decision-maker on many matters not only in our region but the entire world. Hence, the United States is committed to advancing the peace process.

Abu-Sharif added that the Israeli Government is trying to play smartly with the new U.S. Administration to ensure that this process will be in its favor. Namely, it is endeavoring to obtain concessions from the United States. The beginning of this endeavor was Rabin's exploitation of Resolution 799 calling for the deportees' return. He is trying to implement this resolution to obtain a pledge from the U.S. Administration not to discuss the renewal of dialogue with the PLO or Palestinian sovereignty over the occupied territories. The

current deportee issue is not the first one in the life of the Palestinian people. There are four million deported Palestinians. Therefore, the current deportee issue should not be linked with the resumption of the peace process. We should endeavor to ensure that Rabin will not obtain a high price for ending the deportee crisis, bearing in mind that the U.S. position on the deportee issue led to the first retreat in Israel's history before Security Council resolutions. Israel abided by all the articles of this resolution except immediate repatriation.

Hence, it is incumbent on us to prevent Rabin from placing us in a situation in which we cannot see what is going on and in which he can affect the future and continuation of the peace process. Our main task is the path of national independence.

In conclusion, Abu-Sharif said the team that is working with Secretary of State Warren Christopher is aware of the tiniest details of the Middle East problem. We hope that it will work sincerely to advance the peace process. Five or six senior State Department officials support Israel completely. Therefore, the Arabs should throw down their weight into this process to prove their legitimate rights.

## Chief Delegate Views Stand on Peace Talks

*JN2202145293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Interview with Palestinian chief peace talks delegate Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al- Shafi by radio correspondent 'Umar Zaydani; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Zaydani] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian side: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will arrive in the country this evening. Has the Palestinian side adopted a stand regarding its talks with Christopher?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes. Talks will focus on the deportees issue and the importance of Israel's commitment to Security Council Resolution 799. Talks will also deal with the peace process and the difficulties which emerged during the previous rounds and how to overcome them. In my opinion, these are the two important issues in these talks.

[Zaydani] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi: During his talks with Christopher, President Mubarak proposed a brief timetable by which to return home all deportees by June. Reports say that the U.S. secretary of state will not pressure Israel in this regard.

['Abd-al-Shafi] I do not see any reason for this at all. Israel should abide by this Security Council resolution and return the deportees home all at once. I see no reason for a timetable or for such proposals which, in my opinion, will indirectly give legitimacy to the deportation decision.

[Zaydani] In order to soften the Palestinian stand on this issue, Christopher has frequently announced during his visit to Cairo and also in Damascus yesterday that the United States will be an effective partner in the peace process. You have always demanded this.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes. We still understand from Mr. Christopher that the United States means to be an effective partner in these negotiations. We want to be sure and we do not want to repeat the experience that we went through last year. We want to move forward and we welcome this statement. However, we should understand its significance.

[Zaydani] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi: It is no secret that almost all Arab parties are ready to resume the peace talks. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' yesterday stated that the deportees issue is important but the peace process, which aims to change the Middle East's picture, is more important. What is your stand?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I do not argue that the peace process is important because it is related to the fate of all Palestinians and not to that of a single Palestinian group. Accordingly, the minister's talk is true. However, he also said that this depends on resolving the deportees issue. By saying that the cause of peace is more important, the minister did not overlook the importance of resolving the deportees issue in a legitimate and convincing manner.

[Zaydani] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, can the Palestinian side be seen sitting at the negotiating table before completely solving the deportees issue?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Not at all. This will not take place. This is our declared and principled stand. I do not envisage that we will go back on this stand.

[Zaydani] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, thank you very much.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Thank you.

## 'Urayqat Comments on Palestinian 'Dilemma'

*TA2302060793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[Report by Mark Weiss]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The mass deportation in December has put the Palestinians in a quandary. There is no doubt that the action has radically shifted Palestinian public opinion from lukewarm support for the peace talks to firm opposition to any Palestinian participation before the return of the deportees. Palestinian leaders, most notably Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, have stated publicly that they will not return to Washington unless the deportees return from Lebanon. Palestinian negotiator Sa'ib 'Urayqat on the current Palestinian dilemma:

[Begin 'Urayqat recording] What we are simply saying is that Mr. Rabin took a decision. This decision has pu. us

in a very, very difficult situation. He managed to put us in a situation of damned if we go, damned if we do not. At this current time, in front of our constituencies, and with this disadvantaged delegation to start with, we cannot jump this obstacle. So I will not say that we are procrastinating. We are not boycotting. It is our ability at stake. We cannot, unless Mr. Rabin complies with Resolution 799. [end recording]

'Urayqat denies reports that splits have emerged within the Palestinian delegation on the question of whether to return to Washington without further concessions from Israel.

[Begin 'Urayqat recording] I think the delegation, like any other delegation, has the stand of the constituencies, of our leadership. We really are meeting on an almost daily basis as a delegation. I do not even detect a sign of even the slightest differences whatsoever. As a Palestinian delegation, we are all committed to this peace process, and what we simply have been saying to the world for the past 65 or 66 days is that we are unable to continue with this peace process, and that is the Palestinian position actually. [end recording] [passage omitted]

### Palestinians' Discussion With Christopher Viewed

*TA2202145693 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 22 Feb 93 p 4*

[Editorial: "Palestinian Positions and Christopher's First Foray in the Middle East"]

[Text] After succeeding in circumventing Security Council Resolution 799, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will tour the region to encourage the parties to resume the peace process.

The Clinton administration's true colors are becoming apparent: They are not inclined to be firm and resolute with the Israeli Government. This strong disappointment with the new administration will be conveyed to Christopher in his meetings with the Palestinian delegation.

Christopher will be briefed in a firm and open manner that the peace talks, both the bilaterals and multilaterals, will have no Palestinian participation until Resolution 799 is fully implemented.

The human rights situation in its full dimension will be explained: death squads, collective punishment, house demolitions, prison conditions, curfews.... An urgent call for putting the occupied lands of Palestine under either U.N. or international protection will be made.

A demand to the new administration to show goodwill towards the people of Palestine, by resuming the dialogue with the PLO, will also be put forward.

Serious consideration to reshape part of the Madrid formula will also be discussed. Palestinian representation simply must be widened to include diaspora and East Jerusalemites in the bilateral talks on their future.

Palestinians are firm on the peace strategy announced by the Palestine National Council in November 1988 and reiterated a month later by President Yasir 'Arafat in Geneva. But they are also as firm that Israel has to rescind its expulsion orders. It is now up to Warren Christopher to clarify unequivocally the administration's policies and correct the departure from the full implementation of Resolution 799.

### PLO Official in Beirut Reaffirms Link to Hamas

*NC2102080093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Feb 93*

[Text] Shafiq al-Hut, PLO representative in Beirut, has reaffirmed the link between the PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. He said that the solution being considered for the Palestinian deportees crisis is designed to be acceptable to the Arab parties and to pull enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin out of his predicament. Al-Hut emphasized the PLO's position, which calls for returning the deportees to their homes. He said: At the same time, the organization does not want to adopt a position different from the other Arab negotiators. He expressed apprehension about the possibility of the negotiations resuming without the Palestinians.

## OPEC Affairs

### Ministers Welcome OAPEC Meeting Results

*LD2102202593 Riyadh SPA in English 1920 GMT 21 Feb 93*

[Text] Riyadh, Feb 21, SPA—The results of last month's one-day meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) have been generally welcomed by Saudi Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham Nazir and Algeria's Minister of Energy Hacene Mefti.

According to a report published by the latest OPEC bulletin (January, 1993), Nazir termed the meeting "fairly good."

Nazir expressed confidence that the outcome of the recent OPEC meeting in Vienna would eventually lead to stabilization of the world oil market and would realize the targeted balance between supply and demand.

The results produced by the OAPEC meeting were positive in a general way, according to Hacene Mefti.

He said the meeting took place in extremely difficult conditions, considering problems existing between members of the organization.

"The most important thing," he added, "is that all the topics debated were related to the carrying on of actions already initiated by the organization.

"No reservation was expressed as to these actions, (w hich) is why we consider the results reached as positive in a general way."

The meeting decided that the OAPEC Secretariat should remain in Cairo until negotiations on its return to its permanent home—in Kuwait—were completed.

Ministers also approved the awarding of a scientific prize for research for new methods of combating the erosion phenomenon in the oil industry.

Preparations for the fifth Arab conference on energy, scheduled to be held in Cairo in May 1994, were discussed. 'Abd-al-'Aziz- 'Abdallah al-Turki, the secretary general of OAPEC for the last three years, was confirmed in his position, the report said.

## Algeria

### FLN Agrees to Dialogue With HSC, Others

*LD2202144093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Report by correspondent Messaoud Boudjdour—live]

[Text] The new FLN [National Liberation Front] headquarters in Hydra hosted today the first news conference by Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri, FLN secretary general.

In the beginning Mr. Mehri announced that the FLN is ready to participate in the coming round of dialogue, announced by the Higher State Council [HSC] and expected in Ramadan, without any conditions.

However, Mr. Mehri considered that the critical security, political, economic, and social conditions require, as he said, a quick change from the way used so far in dealing with that problem.

As for the parties to participate in that dialogue, Mr. Mehri considered that the current political situation in the country does not justify the exclusion of any political party that accepts dialogue as a means for solving existing problems.

However, Mr. Mehri said, the FLN is ready to talk to the parties invited by the HSC for the sake of achieving the desired results.

He pointed out that the FLN will negotiate in accordance with the memorandum submitted to the HSC, and that it will also discuss all the proposals submitted during this round of talks by the participating parties as well as the HSC.

Mr. Mehri stopped at the recent appeal for dialogue by the head of government, Mr. Belaid Abdesselam. He said that he has no information about the reason behind that appeal.

He asked: Did the head of government address that appeal in his own name, in the name of the government, or in the name of the HSC?

He pointed out that if the appeal was addressed by the head of government in his own name then he was wrong in his choice of the time and place. As a member of the FLN, the head of government should have presented the case within the internal structure of the FLN.

### Five Sentenced to Death for Killing Policemen

*LD2202225093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Excerpts] The special court in Oran today passed sentences ranging from death to imprisonment to acquittal against 12 people charged with killing police and gendarmerie officers, attempting to kill a military security officer, plotting against state security, and forming a gang. Hacene Ghanmi reports on the proceedings of the second day of the trial and the passing of sentences:

[Ghanmi] [passage omitted] After the court council's deliberation, the following sentences were passed: Five of the accused were sentenced to death; four were acquitted; and three were sentenced to five years in prison, with leave for appeal within the next eight days.

### Bosnian War Wounded Arrive for Treatment

*LD2202175293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1700 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Excerpt] On the eve of the holy month of Ramadan, Algeria is welcoming around 60 Bosnian war wounded. They will be treated in Algerian hospitals, and our special envoy (Riad Hassani) has just accompanied them on their voyage from Split. [passage omitted]

## Egypt

### Career Diplomat To Be Assigned to Baghdad

*NC2302120093 Paris AFP in English 1125 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[Text] Cairo, Feb 23 (AFP)—Egypt on Tuesday [23 February] said it would send a career diplomat to Iraq to look after the interests of the huge Egyptian community there but has no immediate plans to restore diplomatic links with Baghdad.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Naji al-Ghatrifi told AFP that Egypt wanted to bolster its interests section in Baghdad which has been located at the Indian embassy there since Iraq broke ties with Egypt during the Gulf crisis.

"This does not necessarily mean a change in the policy on Iraq," he said, adding that no date had been set for dispatching the diplomat, whom he did not identify.

Hundreds of thousands of Egyptian workers have continued to live in Iraq since the end of the Gulf war in February 1991, when a U.S.-led coalition drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Two Egyptian civil servants with no diplomatic status look after their interests, the foreign ministry said.

Speculation that Egypt could restore links with Iraq emerged earlier this month amid reports that President Husni Mubarak had received a message from Saddam Husayn.

The foreign ministry said any moves for a normalization of ties must be taken by Arab consensus.

## Mubarak Addresses Officers on Current Issues

*NC2102180193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Feb 93*

[Excerpts] Aswan, 21 Feb (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has made a statement following President Husni Mubarak's meeting today with commanders and officers of the Southern Military Region at Aswan Air Base. He said that at the beginning of the meeting, Mubarak lauded the role of the Armed Forces in maintaining national security. He said that the Armed Forces constitute a protective shield for Egypt and its members are doing their duty in defending the national soil and safeguarding the homeland. [passage omitted]

Turning to terrorism, Mubarak noted that a malicious minority was not happy with the accomplishments made in the country so they resorted to terrorism to terrify the community and strike at its stability and economy to undermine the boom in tourism and the improvement in the economic situation. Mubarak explained that in the 1991-92 season Egypt's market share of tourism in the region reached 38 percent. This irresponsible minority gave the opportunity to some malicious forces who do not wish Egypt well to try to undermine the march of progress. Mubarak noted that Egypt has started the economic reforms and society has tolerated the difficult stages of reforms through understanding, patience, and openness because there was no other choice. He pointed out that only a short time is left before 1995, when we will reach an acceptable level of economic stability. Therefore, he added, we have to keep up the reform policy and not increase borrowing so as not to add more burdens, either now or in the future. He stressed that loans are kept to a minimum and are sought under strict measures and supervision. If in urgent need of loans, the borrowing institutions and organizations have to make sure they can repay the loans and the interest, he added.

The president then turned to the law providing democratic guarantees for professional associations. He said that he had listened to the views of many professionals, both in public and in special meetings, to learn their opinion on what is happening at the associations, what they lack in terms of professional care, and the associations' departure from their original and real goals in the absence of a suitable atmosphere allowing the majority to choose their own representatives. He said that the new law seeks to consolidate democratic practice by allowing the masses' participation and providing them with guarantees to exercise their will in choosing their representatives under the supervision of the judiciary and without intervention by any authority. He added that it is unreasonable for a small organized minority to dictate its will on the majority and create an atmosphere that drives the majority away from expressing opinions. Mubarak said: It is my responsibility not to sacrifice the people's rights and not to fail to straighten out the course of national action in any domain. What counts is the interests of the people and how to safeguard the right of the majority who tasked me with a responsibility, and I will not fail to do this under any circumstances.

Turning to foreign policy, Mubarak noted that regarding Iraq, Egypt took a principled stand against its invasion of Kuwait. He said Egypt's position is clear. It is against the division of Iraq or attempts to undermine its sovereignty over its territory. He pointed out that Egypt's position is governed by ethics and accordingly, Egypt opposed the invasion of Kuwait, rejected the entry of any foreign troops into Iraq following the liberation of Kuwait, and rejected attempts to turn the liberation of Kuwait into an invasion of Iraq or an overthrow of the Iraqi regime, adding that this is the responsibility and choice of the Iraqi people. [passage omitted]

On the changes in the world and the peace process, Mubarak said that problems need to be solved through dialogue, reason, accurate assessments of the situation, and adopting the right decision. He noted that the international changes require following reason in pursuit of our rights and staying away from emotions and empty slogans, because the international changes have dictated a new reality, new considerations, and new facts. The era of the propaganda war through the media is over, he said. The president noted that the peace negotiations had started among the parties concerned after long preparations and contacts. He stressed that the problem of the Palestinian deportees has had an effect on the course of the peace talks. He explained Egypt's efforts with both Israel and the United States to find a solution to this problem so that the wheel of the talks could be set back in motion to serve the interests of the regional peoples.

Mubarak mentioned Egypt's role in achieving world peace and in responding to the resolutions of international legality. Noting the world community's confidence in Egypt's role, Mubarak said that it led to the Armed Forces' participation in the peacekeeping forces in both Sarajevo and Somalia, adding that the Armed Forces personnel are doing their job with honor and courage.

## 'Price' of Friendship With U.S. Viewed

*NC2302092293 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 19 Feb 93 p 3*

[Article by Naji Qamhah: "One-Sided Friendship!"]

[Text] New U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher visited us yesterday on his first tour of our turbulent region. Before he passes judgment for or against us, we would like him to examine the regional map. He will find at least four Arab nations under siege:

The Palestinian people languish under unjust Israeli occupation imposed in stages over the past 45 years.

The Libyan people are isolated from the world and dubbed terrorists although their government submitted every possible proof of its innocence of the accusation against it; at least it stated its penance!

The Iraqi people are denied their right to a dignified life, self-determination, and sovereignty over all their territory.

The Kuwaiti people are caught between their traumatic fear of Saddam and the greedy blackmail illustrated by Western arms deals and agreements.

Some people accept the argument put forward by some of the United States' Arab friends that the occupation of all Palestine would not have occurred had it not been for the wave of anti-Americanism that swept the Arab world, particularly in the 1960's. This argument lost its strength after our "intimate" friendship with the United States produced the current Arab divisions, placed entire Arab populations behind bars, fostered turbulence and fragmentation among other Arab populations, and posed further threats to our regional and pan-Arab interests.

We lost Palestine when we were hostile to the United States. Now that we are friends we are losing more.

I do not know what kind of friendship it is that comes from one side—ours. The other side gives no practical indication that it appreciates this friendship or that it is concerned with its continuation.

A friend in need is a friend indeed, but our "big" friend weaves nets of adversity for us and enjoys the concessions we give him in return for extricating us from this adversity.

We realize that every friendship has a price, particularly when you befriend the great. But should we always pay the price?

## Musa on Deportees, Lebanon, Relations With Iran

*NC2302110193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[Text] Beirut, 23 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has declared that Israel's refusal to allow the Palestinian deportees to return casts doubts on its credibility in the peace talks. He pointed out that the deportations violate international law, adding that this unsettled issue is increasing Palestinian fears of a large-scale transfer process that will hamper cooperation and threaten the peace process.

Musa said in an interview published in the Lebanese newspaper AL- NAHAR that peace is essential to regional security and stability. He pointed out that peace has its positive aspects in combating extremism, rectifying the course toward democracy, and respecting human rights.

Musa noted that there are attempts to revive the Damascus Declaration through economic cooperation among the signatory countries.

Musa said Lebanon is the victim of various regional upheavals and that it is the country that has suffered the most from the absence of a solution to the Palestine question. He affirmed that Resolution 425 must be implemented without any preconditions or linkage to other issues.

The foreign minister said that Egypt is ready to enter into a dialogue with Iran based on respect for mutual interests, sovereignty, and noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries.

## Thwarting Talks 'Inevitable' Result of Deportees

*NC2302075393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM points out in its "Opinion" column under the headline "What About the Propulsion Force?" that the deportees crisis has left the Arab side in something of a state of shock, which must be cured completely before anyone can expect the peace talks to realize their desired role. This shock is complex. Its complexity arises from the large number of deportees, the twisted methods Israel has used to prolong the crisis and torture the deportees even further, the joint American and Israeli attempts to protect Israel from the repercussions of any international action by the Security Council, and finally Israel's acquisition of illegitimate rights from the whole crisis. Unfortunately, all these factors combine to portray the Arabs as the weaker and inferior party, indeed, the party that could be dismissed despite its strong presence in the arena.

The paper expresses its belief that if the intention is to make the Arabs join the talks from such a position, the inevitable result will be to thwart the talks despite all attempts to revive and activate them.

## Controversy Over Associations Law Continues

### Strikes Staged in Protest

*NC2102172893 Paris AFP in English 1642 GMT 21 Feb 93*

[Text] Cairo, Feb 21 (AFP)—Egyptian lawyers and engineers staged brief strikes Sunday [21 February] to protest a new law aimed at curbing Muslim fundamentalist influence in their professional associations.

The fundamentalist-dominated lawyers' association with 120,000 members and the 100,000-strong engineers' association held two-hour strikes, while the journalists' association denounced the law at a meeting here.

"This is a return to oppression", journalists' representative Majdi Muhana charged.

He urged President Husni Mubarak, who pushed for the law in a parliament dominated by his ruling National Democratic Party, to now repeal it.

Twelve of the 22 professional associations and unions have already appealed to the supreme constitutional court.

They argue that the law passed Tuesday technically prevents them from reaching a quorum at election time because it would be impossible for all their members to meet at a given date.

Tuesday's law sets a minimum turnout of 50 percent in the first round of leadership elections and 33 percent in the second round, with the aim of limiting the chances of fundamentalists winning control by exploiting low turnouts.

If turnout falls short of the new limits, the new law calls for the appointment of magistrates to manage the associations for an interim six-month period, at the end of which a new vote must be held.

Salim Najm, head of the doctors' association [title as received] told AFP That at the last elections a 50 percent turnout was reached in the first round which enabled the Islamists to control the group.

Egypt's organisation of human rights joined the chorus of protest and said the law has undermined democracy and exacerbated human rights abuses.

Thousands of protesters rallied Friday in the Egyptian capital to discuss ways of fighting the law amid heavy security as the authorities sought to prevent any street demonstrations.

Some 5,000 people gathered after weekly Friday prayers at the engineers' association offices, led by Construction Minister Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, and shouted slogans accusing the government of "killing democracy."

### Association Members Hold Conference

*NC2302072193 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 19 Feb 93 p 3*

[Report by Faraj 'Abd-al-'Aziz and Muhammad 'Asim]

[Excerpt] In an extraordinary conference yesterday, members of professional associations stressed the need to go to court to challenge whether the associations law passed by the People's Assembly is constitutional. Board members of approximately 17 associations, including the Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Traders, Pharmacists, and Veterinarians Associations, said there was a need to reconsider the law and not recognize it as valid. The conference, grouping association representatives from various governorates, decided to refer the law to their associations' general meetings and to collect signatures to file a motion challenging the constitutionality of the law. They also decided to approach the Supreme Judicial Council and the Judicial Club [a society grouping members of the Judiciary] to sound out their views on the law, which was enacted without prior consultation with the associations and their general meetings. The conference decided to lift immunity from People's Assembly members who are also members of the professional associations and to refer them to a disciplinary panel. Each professional association will prepare a list of the names of the members who took part in presenting and approving the draft law.

Several members spoke during the conference. Engineer Abu-al-'Ila Madi, assistant secretary general of the Engineers Association, noted that the extraordinary conference will remain in open session to confront the law. Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Bishr, secretary general of the Engineers Association, said the associations had helped to alleviate the suffering of its members and their families through projects they sponsored.

Dr. Salim Najm, deputy chief of the Doctors Association, said the associations condemned terrorism and helped to solve the problem of unemployment and asked: So why should they be rewarded by a law being passed without consultation?

Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jawwad, deputy chief of the Pharmacists Association, said the associations are part of society and that Egypt will lose its membership in Arab and international associations because of this law.

Ahmad Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna, secretary general of the Lawyers Association, said the law was enacted with the approval of association members, who have the right to amend their laws.

Madi said the law is against every association, not just a specific trend. He said 33.3 percent of association members cannot vote in a runoff election or 50 percent in a first round. [passage omitted]

### Law Called 'Self-Destructive'

*NC2002215393 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 Feb 93 p 1*

[Article by Chief Editor Jamal Badawi: "The Government Instructs... and the Venerable Assembly 'Promptly Cooks'!"]

[Excerpts] In his pressure campaign to push through the professional associations bill, People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur relied on anonymous "reports" that attributed to the Engineers Association statements and acts of which it was innocent. The speaker used these reports as a weapon to accuse the opposition of blackmail and terrorism. He skillfully used them to stir the Assembly members against the opposition and get their backing for the bill. He got what he wanted and the bill passed with lightning speed without regard for the views and comments of the very people the bill concerns. [passage omitted]

The government contradicted itself when it attached to the bill the label "guaranteeing the democracy of professional associations." It did not travel one inch along the path of the democracy it professes and turned a deaf ear to the sober views telling the Assembly that they do not

oppose the concept of this law but object to the restrictive clauses that spoil it and render it unenforceable. The government likewise turned a deaf ear to the earnest remarks made by some professional associations that wanted the law to be issued but without its self-destructive elements. For example, the Commercial Association announced that the bill might be instrumental in boosting democratic practice in the associations if its shortcomings were remedied. These shortcomings include the condition that 50 percent of an association's general assembly should take part in electing a chairman or a general or branch council—a percentage impossible to obtain. A more realistic percentage would be 40 percent at a first meeting and 25 percent at a second meeting. Additionally, there should be incentives to make an association's members attend and vote such as holding the election over several days instead of one for those associations with more than 100,000 members, holding it in areas where most members are normally found, and imposing penalties on those who fail to vote, including depriving them of service privileges for an entire electoral term.

Judging by the above and other examples, one can say that the professional associations did not reject outright the concept of this bill but merely wished to exercise their natural right to make their views heard and participate in formulating a law that affects their own members and that is designed to remedy some shortcomings. The government—along with its venerable People's Assembly—are not, however, used to such democratic traditions. The government is accustomed to giving orders... and being obeyed. [passage omitted]

### Writer Challenges Law

*NC2002221193 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 Feb 93 p 2*

[From the "Pulses" column by Dr. Nu'man Jum'ah]

[Excerpts] Fear God, People's Assembly speaker. Like the recent amendment you introduced to the Lawyers Association law, the draft law on Professional Associations is a back door entry, an act of aggression against these associations, and an act of defiance of the opinion and will of members of these associations. Such legislative intervention is a bad omen because it signals a desire by the regime for more domination and hegemony over individuals and groups. [passage omitted]

The nature of the legislation itself is extremely strange. It gives the government the power to choose the associations' boards of directors if 50 percent of an association's members are not available during elections. This means that in order for a general meeting of the Lawyers Association to be valid, 60,000 lawyers have to show up, which is an impossible thing that has never happened and never will. This means eternal government control of the lawyers and other associations, turning the lawyers into servants begging for approval from the masters and lords sitting on the seats of power.

In all councils, institutions, societies, and companies all over the world, the law requires a certain quorum to be present to make a meeting of the electorate valid. Then the quorum shrinks to a minimum and those who show up in the second or third meeting are entitled to elect a council representing the majority. A member's absence is tantamount to delegating those present to represent him or vote on his behalf. If we opt to require the turnout of 50 percent of the electorate at a meeting for it to be valid, we will reach a very serious conclusion. As is known, the turnout of the electorate in Egypt does not exceed 10 percent and is even less than that sometimes. Other times the figure is slightly higher. If this is the case, what would be the solution in the People's Assembly, the Consultative Council, and local government elections? Should the government appoint all members of the parliamentary bodies? And what would be the solution if 50 percent of the electorate were not available in presidential election? To whom shall we leave the matter of choosing a president?

### Change in Parliamentary Election Law Urged

*NC2302085993 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 20 Feb 93 pp 1, 8*

[From the "Political Situation" column by Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah: "Awaiting The New Law"]

[Excerpts] Dr. Fawziyah 'Abd-al-Sattar, chairman of the Constitutional and Legislative Committee of the People's Assembly, told AL-AHRAM yesterday that the draft law on professional associations was submitted to the People's Assembly by some of its members. The people's deputies debated and endorsed it; the government had nothing to do with it, she added. When Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi entered the debate he proposed the need to specify a maximum term in office for the temporary council [appointed to run the affairs of an association if the necessary quorum is not available in two rounds of elections]. So the word "only" was added to follow the words "three months" to specify the required term. [passage omitted]

Certainly, the masses' dissatisfaction with any elections that cause a boycott by the electorate is one of the most important reasons for the five deputies—Muhammad Muhammad Juwayli, Tal'at Mustafa, Muhammad Abu-al-Fadl al-Jizawi, Dr. Husayn al-Sayrafi, and 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mustafa—submitting their draft proposal, hoping it will restore confidence to the election process, which is undoubtedly by popular demand.

With due respect to these "good intentions," I believe they were put into practice incorrectly, causing the big uproar we see today. The lightning speed with which People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur passed this law has given opponents of the law and those who stand to be harmed from it the chance to cast doubts on its "intentions." It also gave them the chance to accuse Dr.

Sidqi's government of attempting to control the professional associations, although Dr. 'Abd-al-Sattar emphasized that the government had nothing to do with this law and that the prime minister insisted on specifying the term of the temporary councils. [passage omitted]

These professionals are not alone in having a silent majority absent from general meetings and failing to participate as a democratic duty before their professional duty. Generally, in all elections in our country, the electorate is absent. The main elections are the parliamentary elections, such as those for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council. There are also the local government elections. I would not be exaggerating if I said that this absence started first at parliamentary elections decades ago, when the people noticed that successive governments interfere in elections and bring in those they want and keep out those they reject. So the people were forced to boycott the elections, despite government assurances of remaining neutral during elections and not interfering in them. The "contagion" of boycotting the ballot boxes spread throughout the masses to affect other elections such as those of the professional associations. The only difference is that the people's boycott of parliamentary elections stemmed from the government's interference, while in association elections, the silent majority of professionals stage a boycott because they know a minority has mastered the "game" of elections and restricts the seats of board members to their supporters.

Now that the time has come to give the majority in the professional associations the chance to break their silence and choose their own representatives, how could we start at the trunk and leave the root? How could we start to amend the law on professional associations and not first amend the law on parliamentary council elections? Now that a law has been enacted on professional associations, listen to some of our deputies in the legislature calling for the need to change the law on parliamentary council elections. The five deputies above were enthusiastic enough to prepare and pass the new law on professional associations. Luckily enough, Dr. 'Abd-al-Sattar told AL-AHRAM yesterday that she agrees there is a need to amend the law on parliamentary elections as long as a certain voter turnout is specified in elections for the People's Assembly, the Consultative Council, and local councils.

If Dr. 'Abd al-Sattar, as chairman of the Constitutional and Legislative Committee of the People's Assembly, is so enthusiastic about such a change and such a condition, could we expect her and her colleagues on the committee to immediately start preparing a full draft on the necessary changes in the parliamentary election law?

More importantly, will the enthusiasm for, preparations, debate, and endorsement of the awaited law be conducted with the same lightning speed with which the law on professional associations was passed?

## New Law Said Enacted Too Fast

*NC2302095893 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Feb 93 p 8*

[From Salamah Ahmad Salamah's "Close-up" column: "Circumventing Democracy"]

[Text] Half the democratic process is based on conviction and dialogue and on reaching a compromise on a problem to ensure the majority's support.

And half is based on providing the guarantees and measures that ensure the integrity of the democratic process.

But because democracy in our country remains an empty word, the easiest thing to do is to resort to sudden measures that reflect loss of patience and scheming and more often than not extinguish the spirit of democracy on the pretext of defending it and enlarging its base.

This is what happened with the enactment of the unified law on professional associations and its repercussions.

The law and its final draft might provide the guarantees that will let many associations' members participate in choosing their representatives and prevent any particular group or movement from seizing control of the associations. This happens when the majority do not exercise their electoral rights to labor representation or legislative elections, as is the case when the people elect the People's Assembly. This is one of the plagues afflicting democracy in our country, a plague the new law seeks to remedy.

The legislative body has tried to tackle labor elections but it has harmed the spirit of democracy and made the associations and their members suspicious of the law's real objective.

The same result could have been reached had the People's Assembly sought the views of the professional associations or held sessions to hear the professionals' views. It is not democratic that the legislative body's main concern should be the exclusion of any specific movement or trend from political or labor activities. This was shown in the way the law was presented and approved within 48 hours. It is the same mistake the legislative body committed in the past, when it amended the Lawyers Association Law in a lightning legislative attack. The outcome of recent elections in the Lawyers Association—not what some people wanted—was the result of that amendment.

No one opposes enlarging the democratic base and encouraging the silent majority to exercise its rights, but the policy of circumventing the democratic practice always leads to the opposite of what is wanted, particularly when the same principles are not applied to the People's Assembly elections. This gives the associations the excuse to object to the attendance figure required to hold their general assemblies.

We might find out while applying the law that the question ultimately depends on the organizational ability of some trends, not others and that it is a question of confidence in and credibility of candidates for labor posts, not of a specific trend or party.

## Libya

### Al-Muntasir on Ties With U.S., Chemical Arms

*NC2102123593 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1050 GMT 21 Feb 93*

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—A year after the outbreak of the "Lockerbie" crisis between Libya and the West—a year which has witnessed important developments in which Egypt has played a key role—an AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY correspondent has held an interview with Libyan Foreign Minister 'Umar al-Muntasir. The interview will be published on page 2 of today's issue of AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I.

[Unidentified correspondent] Some believe that 'Umar al-Muntasir has been appointed foreign minister to reorganize Libya's relations with the West, especially Libya's relations with the United States. What are the dimensions of the relations between the two countries and is there a link between your visit to Cairo and Christopher's visit to the region?

[Al-Muntasir] There are no relations between Libya and the United States. We always have sought to open dialogue with all states, but regrettably, we thus far have had no response from the United States. The United States bases its decisions regarding Libya on incorrect premises and information. There is no link between my presence in Cairo and the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region. I was on a tour of the Gulf states. It was illogical that I visit these states without stopping over in Cairo. I held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz [Foreign Ministry first undersecretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs]. The talks were successful.

[Correspondent] How true are reports that a U.S.-Libyan meeting will be held in an Arab capital in April? What does the Jamahiriyah want from the new U.S. Administration?

[Al-Muntasir] We do not have enough information about this subject. I can confirm to you, however, that we have sought such a meeting and have submitted an official request through the Belgian Embassy in Tripoli, which looks after U.S. interests in Libya, to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The United States has not replied. We hope the new U.S. Administration will approve the Libyan proposal that the Lockerbie suspects be tried in a neutral country.

[Correspondent] In the event Libyan-U.S. dialogue takes place, do you envisage the possibility of establishing relations between Washington and Tripoli? What are the boundaries that define these relations with the new U.S. Administration?

[Al-Muntasir] The United States is a state of institutions. Individuals can change at any time and so can ways and means, but the aims and political strategies are firm and constant. We have no problems with the United States. The dispute began with U.S. President Ronald Reagan over Libya's stand on well-known Arab issues. Therefore, our concept of the establishment of relations is based on the new U.S. Administration's understanding of the facts and events in a systematic and realistic way because the previous information was incorrect. We are certain that if the new administration adopts an objective outlook, the U.S. position will change for the better and relations will be established on firm and clear bases.

[Correspondent] Libya so far has not learned where France stands in the Libyan-Western conflict. Tripoli refused to receive the French magistrate investigating the crash of the UTA airliner. Why did you refuse to receive him? When will the investigation begin? Is there dialogue between the Libyan and French Governments?

[Al-Muntasir] We have not refused to receive the French judge. However, we rejected the way in which he came: aboard a warship bristling with weapons and missiles. This was out of place in the diplomacy of the 20th century and more suited to the Middle Ages. The Libyan Government on the one hand and the French judiciary and Government on the other recently agreed that the judge will visit Libya very soon in a legal and civilized fashion and that an investigation will be carried out according to his wishes.

[Correspondent] The seven-member committee entrusted by the Arab League to resolve the Lockerbie crisis has repeatedly postponed its meetings. Why has this happened? When will the committee meet?

[Al-Muntasir] The seven-member committee was due to meet on 17 February, but the meeting was postponed because the Egyptian and Syrian foreign ministers were too busy. The committee will meet soon in Tunisia. If you are talking about new proposals and if justice was the primary objective, we would accept any court selected outside the United Kingdom and the United States. We agree that it is important to try the Libyans suspects. We actually call and insist on them being tried. We are confident of their innocence. As far as we are concerned, the dispute is not about trying them, but only about the place in which the trial should be held.

[Correspondent] U.S. sources yesterday accused Libyan authorities of building a secret chemical weapons factory in Tarhunah in southeast Tripoli. The West still sees Libya as a Middle Eastern state that abets terrorist camps. How do you explain this? Are there any steps being taken to change this conception?

[Al-Muntasir] It is not true that we have secret factories to produce chemical weapons. All our factories are for

peaceful purposes, such as water projects. The West is escalating its campaign against us because we do not believe in signing the international treaty on banning chemical weapons unless this treaty is signed by all the countries in the region without exception. It is not true that we support terrorism or shelter any terrorist groups or organizations.

[Correspondent] In light of recent developments, how do you see Egyptian-Libyan relations? How true are news agency reports that Egypt has washed its hands of the Lockerbie crisis? Also, why have efforts to settle Egyptians in Libya stopped?

[Al-Muntasir] Our past and present experiences prove beyond doubt that Egyptian-Libyan cooperation is essential for the Arab people. The relations between the leaders and peoples of the two countries are excellent, and this fact does not need to be stressed. News agency reports that Egypt has abandoned its efforts to end the Libyan crisis with the West are untrue. We know that Egypt's role in this aspect is invaluable. We are in touch with Egyptian officials who are still holding important contacts in this regard. Everyone knows the role of President Husni Mubarak and his efforts to prevent the escalation of this crisis.

## Al-Muntasir on Arab Divisions, Lockerbie Trial

*PM2202155593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Feb 93 p 6*

[Report on interview with 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, by Madi al-Khamis in Kuwait; date not given]

[Text] In an inteview with AL-HAYAH, 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, said that those who harmed the Arab nation should be brought to account. He also called for the amendment of the Arab League Charter to ensure unified Arab stands. He said that the Arab situation was currently "disgraceful" and that the only solution was implementation of Arab agreements with clear intentions to put an end to the crises afflicting the Arab world.

He said that the aim of his Gulf tour was to exchange views with the officials there. He confirmed that he found Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah "fully responsive."

He also said that his country was currently holding contacts with the states allied with the United States to persuade it to agree to the trial of the Lockerbie suspects in a neutral country. He added: "We Libyans have no problems with the United States. We are just paying the price for our Arab stands."

Al-Muntasir talked about Arab divisions and inability to take a unified position on Arab problems in the region and on international issues. He added that "for instance, there is no unified Arab stance on the deportees issue. That has prompted other parties to try to find compromise solutions and circumvent the Security Council resolution." He added that the Arabs do not have a unified position on "the Palestinian question, the Gulf issues, chemical and nuclear weapons, and the Lockerbie issue. We see some looking for a compromise regarding Resolution 799 on the Palestinian deportees and requesting full implementation of Resolution 731 on the Lockerbie case. I believe that a nation whose attitude has reached such a degree is in a position that can only be described as disgraceful."

Al-Muntasir added: "I do not blame any particular party for that. Everyone has contributed to that decline. Our generation is, most regrettably, a lost generation and has had many problems and diverging views—from leftist to rightist to extreme leftist to extreme rightist to moderate to reactionary to progressive to socialist to Islamist, and so on...and then foreign parties intervened to direct our people. Just observe the current state of the entire Arab nation. There are problems in North Africa, in the East, in Palestine, Yemen, the Gulf, and Sudan. Anyone with no local problems would have problems thrown at him from abroad and we just look on as spectators."

He continued: "We have enough agreements, charters, and treaties to make the Arab nation one united front, but they are not implemented. Economic unity has not been implemented.... There is an agreement signed by all the Arabs but it has not been implemented. We must know our destiny and we should not adopt selfish attitudes."

He repeated: "I blame nobody in particular because everyone has contributed to this situation, some more than others. Some Western blocs have said to us: How do you expect us to take a unified stand on Arab issues when you Arabs do not have a unified stand? Do we deal with you as a bloc or as different states?"

On how the Arab situation should be remedied, al-Muntasir said that there should first be a clear intention to find a solution. "Generally speaking, there are problems which must be solved in the Arab world. If we accept that and if we tackle all outstanding issues between us, we could then move on to accountability, the correction of mistakes, and the search for ways to prevent their recurrence." He added that "No state should invade another while the other states just look on. There are agreements, such as the Joint Defense Pact, which prevent such invasions."

He said that "Part of our problem lies in the Arab League Charter—which is really a feeble charter because of its unanimity requirement, which is impossible." He added that "We should also isolate the problems which are imposed on us from abroad. Enemies are lying in wait. We have many enemies serving their own interests. The Zionist enemy has become a common reality among us because we have repeated the word enemy so much. Since the mid-forties the Palestinian issue has passed

through many phases from partition, to acceptance of partition, to the call for the return of the occupied Arab territories, to the call for the return of the West Bank, Gaza, and Sinai, to the call for the return of Jerusalem, and now it has reached the point of just calling for the return of the deportees only. Just look what happened to the Arab demands."

On the role played by the Arab League, he said: "There can be no doubt that there is something wrong with the role of the Arab League, and its charter should be amended. In Libya, our view is maybe a little extremist when we call for any form of Arab unity. I believe we can solve Arab problems through amendment of the Arab League Charter. Arab officials and leaders should meet to agree on specific amendments."

In his interview al-Muntasir urged Arab officials to respect the Arab people, adding that "If the citizen is not respected we would never solve our problems and would never succeed. The Arab citizen should be raised to the required level as a citizen capable of voicing an opinion and carrying out what he thinks is correct."

He spoke of the need for a high-level Arab meeting "based on good intentions for the settlement of Arab differences which can definitely be settled. These differences affect the economic and political situations. There is major Arab disagreement and the wound is deep. That calls for great patience and efforts."

He said that the Arab nation has passed through several stages "from maximum activity and sense of patriotism in the fifties to the present rock-bottom situation in every way, economically, politically, and otherwise."

He added: "That is why I repeat that a unified Arab stance is the only solution to our problems. The United States is lying in wait for us, and Israel has now become the United Nation's pampered child which is generally exempt from implementing UN resolutions whereas such resolutions are fully implemented against the Arab nation. The Arab states should not accept a compromise solution. There is a clear resolution which must be implemented. Two Arab states are currently members of the Security Council. The presidency of the Council is currently held by an Arab state. The Council has three Islamic members. There should be a clear unified stand. Even if such a stand could not change anything, it would be sufficient to make others take the Arab position into consideration."

On the aims of his Gulf tour, he said: "I have recently joined the foreign ministry and I generally wished to get acquainted with my colleagues in the region. I was in Riyadh, now I am in Kuwait and I will complete my tour of the Gulf states by visiting the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman, and then I will go to Syria and Egypt."

He added: "During my visit to Riyadh I exchanged views with Saudi officials on a number of Arab problems and issues. I met with Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and we agreed on a number of points and disagreed on some others."

He continued: "During my Kuwait visit I have met with the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and found him fully responsive. Our relations with Kuwait are good and our position on the Gulf tragedy is clear. One aim of the visit is to explain Libya's current circumstances and the situation in general."

He stressed that the Libyan people "were affected by what happened in the Gulf and by the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. The invasion was not acceptable to the ordinary Libyan, but at the same time we did not accept the division of the Arab homeland because of a mistake committeed by one individual and one particular group. I stress that the Kuwaiti people do not accept what is happening to the Iraqi people."

Al-Muntasir added: "We hope that crisis will end. The European states had fought among themselves. Eight million people were killed in World War II but, having punished those who were responsible for the war, they now have a common market."

On the situation in Libya, al-Muntasir said that the economic situation is generally good "and we have started the phase of transferring the activity of the public sector to the private sector with minimum state interference. We are fighting for a cut in oil production so as to maintain prices."

He added: "As regards the Libyan issue currently raised at the international level, namely the Lockerbie issue, it is a legal issue that has been politicized by some for reasons best known to them. We still say that if the aim is to bring out the truth, then we have no objection. The suspects should be interrogated in a neutral state. If found guilty, they would be punished, but they (in the West) reject this offer and insist that they should stand trial in the United States or Britain, which is contrary to law and logic because no state allows the extradition of its own citizens to another state."

He said that the attempts to end the dispute were still continuing, and "We say that if they have any evidence then let them produce it in a just and neutral court not affected by the media. We would accept any court outside these two states presided over by fair judges, and we would persuade the brothers to give themselves up for trial."

He pointed out that Libya was currently making efforts "with the states allied with the United States to convince it of our viewpoint. If the main purpose is to show the truth, then why not accept this proposal? We Libyans have no direct problems with the United States. All our problems with it stem from our Arab stand, and we are now paying the price. We believe that the Arabs should know their destiny and work as one nation."

### Health Cooperation Agreement Signed With Ukraine

*LD2002142093 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Feb 93*

[Text] A protocol of agreement for cooperation in the health sector was signed in Tripoli this morning between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Ukraine. The protocol provides for cooperation in the fields of medical and paramedical expertise, training, higher studies, pharmacology, and medical equipment. The protocol was signed by the general secretary of the General People's Committee for Health and Social Security and the deputy health minister in the Republic of Ukraine.

## Sudan

### Committee on Hala'ib Begins New Round of Talks

*EA2202204293 Khartoum SUNA in English 1636 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Feb (SUNA)—The Sudanese-Egyptian joint committee on the Hala'ib issue started a new round of talks here Monday [22 February].

The Sudanese side in the talks was headed by the Ambassador 'Umar Yusuf Barido, the first under-secretary of the Foreign Ministry, and the Egyptian side by Ambassador (?Muhibb) Muqbil, the assistant of the Egyptian foreign minister for Arab and Middle East affairs.

During the first session, Barido welcomed the Egyptian delegation and explained that the committee will discuss some issues concerning the two countries. Barido added that the meeting of the committee itself is an indication to the keenness of the two sides for removing the obstacles that hinder the progress of the joint work between the two countries and it also reflects the desire of the political administration of the two countries in solving all problems in the atmosphere of cooperation, particularly the Hala'ib issue.

The chairman of the Sudanese side expressed unlimited readiness to work for overcoming all obstacles affecting the relations between the two countries, saying that they will not permit any problem to hinder cooperation between the two sister countries. He further said that he is expecting fruitful talks which will reflect the aspirations of the two peoples in the unity and stability. He also praised the efforts exerted by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad of Syria, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of the Libyan Jamahiriyyah and Yasir 'Arafat of Palestine for solving the interim problem between Sudan and Egypt.

The chairman of the Egyptian side also spoke at the session, saying that the Egyptian delegation has come to the talks with a great desire, hoping that the talks will be held in a cordial atmosphere.

The Egyptian delegation's visit came in the framework of the Syrian mediation.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian foreign minister, 'Amr Musa, expressed hope that the joint committee would succeed in solving the problem, adding that the committee will discuss only the Hala'ib issue.

### Third Session Held

*NC2202141093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 22 Feb (MENA)—Ambassador Muqbil, assistant foreign minister and chairman of the Egyptian delegation to the Joint Egyptian-Sudanese Committee's third session, has emphasized the profound ties between the two fraternal nations who he said are always on the same side. He added that there can be no problems between the countries as long as we work earnestly together.

These remarks were part of Muqbil's speech at the beginning of the Joint Committee's meeting at Khartoum's Friendship Hall today. 'Umar Yusuf Barido, Sudanese Foreign Ministry first under secretary, led the Sudanese delegation to the talks.

Muqbil said the Egyptian delegation came to Khartoum with an open heart and good intentions. He said he hopes the discussions will lead to an understanding and that there will be a serious attempt to eliminate whatever mars the fraternal nations' relationship. [passage omitted]

Barido said that the fact that the committee is meeting shows that the two countries' political leaders want to do all they can to remedy the obstacles barring cooperation. [passage omitted]

Following the speeches, the delegations began a closed meeting to discuss the legal, political, and historical aspects of the Hala'ib issue.

Egyptian Ambassador to Sudan Hamad Jad-al-Haq also attended the meeting.

### PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Khartoum 19 Feb

*EA1902181793 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Feb 93*

[Text] The Palestinian president, Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in Khartoum this afternoon. He was received at the airport by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers; Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, the RCC secretary general; Mr. Abu Raja'i, ambassador of Palestine in Khartoum; and members of the Palestinian Embassy. President 'Arafat stated that the purpose of his visit is to meet Sudanese leaders and brief them on the latest important developments in the region, the Palestinian uprising, and the massacres perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces.

### Leaves 20 Feb

*EA2002212793 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Feb 93*

[Text] The Palestinian president, Yasir 'Arafat, left the country this afternoon after a two-day visit to Sudan within the framework of a tour of Arab countries which covered Jordan and Egypt. He briefed the Sudanese leadership on the latest and important developments in the region. He was seen off at the airport by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers.

Before leaving the country, President 'Arafat met Lt. Gen. al-Bashir at his office in the General Command. After the meeting, 'Arafat said that he discussed with Lt. Gen. al-Bashir the concerns of the Arab region and methods of strengthening Arab solidarity to meet the challenges facing the Arab nation under the new world order. His excellency added that he had briefed Lt. Gen. al-Bashir on the important developments in the region concerning different issues, particularly those relating to the Palestinian deportees and the importance of implementing Security Council Resolution 799.

'Arafat expressed his thanks and gratitude to the Sudanese Government and people for their noble stand in support of the Palestinian cause. As to peace efforts in the Middle East, President 'Arafat said that Rabin was an obstruction to the achievement of peace as he was under the protection of the American administration. He had also rejected international legitimacy and the implementation of its resolutions. He said that the Arab nation would fight for the recovery of its rights. He pointed out that Rabin's escalation of his criminal massacres through murders and collective banishment against the unarmed and the innocent would only increase the determination and steadfastness to recover the land of Palestine.

### Al-Bashir on U.S. Dialogue, Egypt, Other Issues

*JN2302093693 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Feb 93 p 16*

[By Faysal al-Shubul, in Khartoum]

[Excerpts] Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir has said that Sudan did not fight U.S. interests and that the U.S.-Sudanese dialogue is open and continues. He added: However, the Sudanese leadership is trying to establish the Islamic state and apply in Sudan the Islamic shari'ah, whose gradual implementation has begun.

Answering a question by SAWT AL-SHA'B, al-Bashir said that Sudan will not participate with any Arab or non-Arab party in a plot against the Arabs.

During a meeting with Jordanian reporters in Khartoum, al-Bashir said that Hala'ib has belonged to Sudan since the Joint British- Egyptian rule and that Britain and Egypt drew the Sudanese-Egyptian border.

Answering another question, al-Bashir said that the total number of Iranian nationals in Sudan is 80—men, women, and children—adding that there is no military attache at the Iranian Embassy in Khartoum and that there is no training camp in Sudan, as some Arab and foreign circles claim. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir said: We are in a permanent state of emergency because we are fighting a fierce war. He added: For the first time in history, the Arabs, Israel, Africa, the East, and the West agree on one thing, namely supporting the insurgency in southern Sudan.

The Sudanese president continued: We did not fight U.S. interests. They are hostile to us. We are applying the Islamic law by the wishes of the people. We excluded the south because Islam did not spread by force but by coexistence.

Al-Bashir said: Our radio is unheard abroad, and we have no press or media outside our borders, and we have no training camps for anybody despite the Egyptian officials' allegations in this regard. So far, there is no Iranian military attache in Sudan, and the total number of Iranians in Sudan is 80, including children.

We opened our country to the Arabs, and some of them sought refuge here when they could not stay in their own countries. We played host to them, but we did not train them. Is it reasonable to prevent an Arab from residing in Sudan? British nationals enter the Arabian Gulf states without a visa, but the Arabs cannot obtain this visa even if they wait for years.

The Sudanese leader said: We will not stand against the world but will not concede our principles. The dialogue with the United States is open and continues. As for the Hala'ib area, it is Sudanese and its borders were drawn by the joint British-Egyptian colonialism. Why did the Egyptian officials not claim Hala'ib before? We are aware that what is at issue is not Hala'ib but the fact that we have become independent. We say that we will not participate with Arab or non-Arab parties in plotting against the Arabs.

On the Islamic trend, al-Bashir said: We upheld the Islamic trend from the beginning. An Islamic organization was created in the Armed Forces when the communists tried to overthrow the Numayri regime in 1971. When the revolution began, we dissolved all the political parties and detained their leaders as a precautionary measure to eliminate any effect they could have on the revolution. These are the al-Ummah Party, led by al-Sadiq al-Mahdi; the Democartic [Unionist Party], led by ['Uthman] al-Mirghani; the National Islamic Front, led by [Hasan] al-Turabi; and the Sudanese Communist Party. We could have liquidated the leaderships of the political parties as adversaries, a method used by many movements in the world, but we did not resort to such a course.

The leadership of the National Islamic Front later met and decided to dissolve itself and join the authorities. We needed a number of their cadres, and we were trying to attract other leaderships.

As for the Islamic state, it is not known in a single form because it has not existed since the days of the early Islamic caliphs. We are trying to apply the [Islamic] texts gradually and intend to establish an Islamic state in Sudan, which has never experienced such a state. We have programs for comprehensive Islamic call and for fighting corruption.

In general, we are now in the third year of the comprehensive strategic plan to solve all the political, social, and cultural problems, as well as issues of education and infrastructure. We are working on paving 13,000 km of roads and establishing suitable educational and health projects.

### Delegation Leaves for Peace Talks in Uganda

*EA2202115893 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Feb (SUNA)—Peace talks between the Sudanese Government and the rebellion movement (Garang faction) will start at the Ugandan capital, Kampala, Monday [22 February]. The delegation of the government has left for Kampala Sunday [21 February] to participate in the talks. These direct negotiations come following the efforts exerted by the Ugandan president, Yoweri Museveni, who visited the country last week.

[The] Sudan delegation [is] headed by the minister of planning and investment, Dr 'Ali al-Hajj, who is also the official spokesman of the government, while the rebellion movement's delegation [is] headed by John Garang.

### Abu-Salih on Ties to Egypt, West's Pressure

*PM2202155093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Feb 93 p 6*

[Interview with Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih by Babakr 'Uthman in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Uthman] What are your priorities for Sudanese foreign policy at this stage?

[Abu-Salih] We cannot say that certain priorities are included in the action program. We consider any move we make part of our priorities. And we want our plans to move in all directions in parallel. Perhaps we follow in this connection the comprehensive national strategy in whose drawing up all influential people in the country participated and which the Transitional National Assembly endorsed. With regard to foreign affairs, this strategy is our guide in our daily work. It focuses on the importance of Sudan's geographical, human, and historical position, which makes it a mini Africa in view of the huge resources it has in all spheres and in view of the human and cultural diversity it enjoys. Sudan's strength also stems from its Arab, Islamic, and African affiliations. This is why our moves should be directed toward the neighbors as well as the Arab, African, and Islamic worlds and the nonaligned states. As is known, our country has a place among these states. So our moves should be made on all fronts both proportionately and steadily. Thus we can say that no front has precedence over another. [passage omitted]

['Uthman] What kind of relations do you want to establish between Sudan and the Arab states?

[Abu-Salih] We are convinced that our existence with the Arab states is indispensable. We always support unity of Arab ranks, Arab solidarity, and efforts to clear the atmosphere. So if Arab unity is a dream that is difficult to realize, the Arab body should at least work for the good of everyone for mutual benefit.

['Uthman] It is noted that the exchange of visits has almost ceased between Sudanese officials and many Arab states.

[Abu-Salih] I do not want in this connection to talk about axioms. However, we hope we will succeed in returning matters to normal and move toward tackling our problems with our brothers. We believe that we must make moves. These moves should reflect flexibility. Not a flexibility resulting from a weakness, but a flexibility that realizes a balance between principles and the political relationship. We want the communication method to be civilized. [passage omitted]

['Uthman] Among the burning issues you have to deal with is the strong tension in relations with Egypt. How will you tackle this issue?

[Abu-Salih] As I said earlier, we follow the guidelines of the comprehensive strategy, which specifically stipulates that we should allow no room in our relations with neighboring states for the border—which we consider artificial—to become an object of dispute and conflict or a means of access for pursuits designed to combat smuggling, and so on. We must work to to create social interconnection and exchange interests through these borders. We want the disputed border areas to become areas of integration and mutual benefit, not an object of dispute with the neighbors.

And we believe that our dispute with Egypt should not continue, and the media should keep away from this issue lest it lead to sedition. And we urge neither state to provoke the other, and that disagreements be left for experts and specialists to resolve. But before the technical committees resume their work, our policy should be to reach an integration formula, not an escalation of the dispute. Our experts should enter any negotiations with this approach.

['Uthman] Many people believe that the dispute over the Hala'ib triangle is one aspect, not the cause, of the tension between the two countries. What is your opinion?

[Abu-Salih] We see no reason why we should have bad and strained relations with our brothers in Egypt. We believe that relations among the peoples spread on the banks of the Nile, north and south, do not need intervention from governments, which are transitory. This is why the eternal and special relations between the two peoples of the Nile valley should be safeguarded. We believe that Sudan with its huge area and vast plains is the natural extension of the Egyptian people in the next century, namely when the population becomes a problem in the north of the valley. We wish our country to become an extension for them. Thus we should work to improve and develop these relations.

['Uthman] As is known, Sudan's relations with a large number of Western states are also experiencing a phase of tension. What are the reasons for this tension?

[Abu-Salih] I believe that the cultural model proposed by Sudan provoked the West, which believes that its culture alone must prevail. The West should know that the cultural model we are seeking to apply cannot be abandoned. Because we live for it and are prepared to die for it. Nevertheless, we hope that our dialogue with them will continue in order to reach a formula for exchanging benefits and common interests. While we want to benefit from their scientific advancement and economic aid, this should not be conditional on our adoption of a cultural model imposed on us and which we reject. For our part, we believe that cultures and civilizations should be left to flourish without any interference or conditions. We believe that the logic of domination and force is futile. And we are for the principle of dialogue and friendly relations based on exchanging interests. [passage omitted]

['Uthman] Do the pressures being exerted by the West have any impact on Sudan at present?

[Abu-Salih] Regrettably, the Western economic pressures on the Sudanese people have assumed the nature of sanctions. For example, they blocked Sudan's share specified in the Lome agreement, that is over $400 million. We wonder: Why should the Sudanese people be punished by denying them aid? Is it because they support the government? I believe that, if this government did not announce its positions, which it derives from the Sudanese people's spirit, it would not have been able to remain in power. I truly believe that this government represents the Sudanese scene's pulse. And I emphasize once again that we do not want any hostility with the West. All we aim to do is to apply a way of life which Almighty God ordered us to apply. [passage omitted]

['Uthman] In view of your political background, do you not believe that the present regime should expand the circle of political participation in the country, and that the invitation addressed to oppositionists to return from abroad requires further assurances?

[Abu-Salih] I believe the truth about the domestic situation is still unclear. The work which has been carried out in Sudan so far to consolidate security and reinforce the Army is not for the sake of war, but for the sake of establishing peace and creating prospects for development in the country. And I believe that the establishment of peace has been the priority since the National Salvation Revolution came to power. And we should not ignore the great successes which have been achieved with regard to the liberalization of the economy, agricultural expansion, and mobilization of the nation through everyone's participation in the conferences which led to the drawing up of a comprehensive national strategy. In our political rhetoric there is a fixed affirmation that Sudan is for all and that it should not belong to one particular group to the exclusion of others. We are talking about the big vessel which includes everyone. In the past the major political parties (the Ummah party, Democratic Unionist Party, and the National Islamic Front) established a coalition. But now the masses of these parties are rallying around the National Salvation Revolution. And I must point out that they are not rallying around (President) Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, but around the principles Lt. Gen. al-Bashir is following. Nevertheless, there is a need for the oppositionists to return from abroad, and there is an opportunity for dialogue and further participation. And we are now in a transition phase and on our way to transferring power to the people.

## RCC Chairman Names New Members of TNA

*EA2102205093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Feb 93*

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, has issued the following decrees:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful, in the name of God, in the name of the people, and in the name of the Armed forces. Decrees of the council of the national salvation revolution:

After the perusal of the provisions of Article IV, Paragraph 1, of the 5th Constitutional Order of 1991, the following decree has been issued:

Decree No 1 of the 1993 appointing members to the Transitional National Assembly [TNA].

1. The people whose names follow in this decree are appointed members of the Transitional National Assembly.

2. Issued under my signature on 21 February, Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC and the Council of Ministers.

The people appointed are: al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim [former vice president under Numayri], Ahmad Ibrahim al-Tahir, Brigadier Ahmad Abdullah al-Khatib, Ahmad al-Shaykh Idris Manna, al-Bushra Uthman, al-Sadiq Hijazi, Bashir Muhammad Sa'id, Major (Badok) Ayang (Amikor), Khalid Muhammad Siddiq Talhah, Zakaria Manyiel Malak, Simon Mawin, Shakir Hamid (Driyu), Isam al-Din al-Asad, 'Umar Fatiyya, Professor 'Abd-al-Rahman Abu Zayd; Tahir Shaykh al-Baqir, (?Falyathus) Faraj, al-Fatih Hasab al-Rasul, Gajuk Wurnyang, Dr Kamal Hamid Ibrahim Shaddad, Chief Louis Loki (Yaba), Mahjub al- Badawi Muhammad [former minister of education], muhammad Ahmad al-Hilali, Muddathir Majdhub al-Hajjaz, Muhammad Ahmad al-Fadil, Mary (Incha) Jok, and Hisham al-Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Bur'i.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir also issued Decree No. 2 for the year 1993 appointing members to the Transitional National Assembly by virtue of their posts.

1. The people whose names follow hereunder are appointed members of the transitional national assembly by virtue of their posts and they are: Brig. Engineer 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, minister of the interior; Mr. 'Abd-al-Aziz Abdullah Shiddu, minister of justice and attorney general; Mr. Muhammad Khawjali Salihin, chairman of the Popular Committee for Salvation in the State of Khartoum; and Mr. Hamid Bashir Daw al-Bayt, chairman of the Popular Committee for Salvation in the State of Kurdufan.

2. Issued under my signature on 21 February 1993.

Meanwhile, the speaker of the TNA said those who have been appointed members should attend the Assembly's session at 1000 to be sworn in.

### Government Reaffirms Commitment to Relief Aid

*EA2002220393 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Feb 93*

[Text] Mr. Ahmad al-Radi Jabir, chairman of the Peace Committee in the Transitional National Assembly, has reaffirmed the government's commitment to deliver relief supplies to needy citizens in all the affected areas. He called on the rebel factions to [word indistinct] and not to repeat what happened in (Legdor) on 4 January, namely robbing relief steamers which were flying the UN flag.

Commenting on the statement issued by the new Sudanese Council of Churches recently, Jabir said that the Kampala statement between the government delegation—led by Dr. Ali al-Haj Muhammad, minister of planning and investment and official spokesman at the peace negotiations—and leaders of the rebel movement—Carabino, (Kazamjin), and Arok Thuon—affirmed the necessity of delivering relief aid to all citizens wherever they are. This is a firm principle which the government has repeatedly been endorsing.

## Tunisia

### Algeria's Kafi, Delegation Arrive on Working Visit

*LD2002190293 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Feb 93*

[Excerpts] Mr. Ali Kafi, the Algerian chairman of the Higher State Council, arrived in Tunis on a two-day working and fraternal visit at the official invitation of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. [passage omitted] At the VIP lounge at the airport, Chairman Ali Kafi made the following statement:

[Begin Kafi recording] On this blessed day, I cannot but say that I am pleased and delighted to meet the brother His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. I would also like to extend, on behalf of myself and my colleagues, my gratitude for his excellency's generous invitation.

This visit is part of the framework of consultations, work, and coordination between our two countries at the bilateral level. There is a lot that needs to be implemented at this level. We also need to consult about issues concerning our greater Arab Maghreb region. We must seize the opportunity of this meeting in fraternal Tunisia—our second motherland—to study all issues, regional and international, that concern us. Thank you. [end recording]

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali accompanied his eminent guest to the El-Saada Palace in the al-Marsa quarter, where he will be staying during his visit. The accompanying delegation includes Foreign Minister Redha Malek, Interior Minister Mohamed Hardi, and Minister Delegate for Trade Mustapha Mekraoui.

### Kafi, Ben Ali Hold Talks

*LD2002215093 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Feb 93*

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this evening had private talks in Carthage Palace with Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council of Algeria, who is paying a brotherly and working visit to Tunisia at the invitation of the head of state. The official spokesman for the presidency of the republic said that the two-hour talks touched upon the relations of brotherhood and cooperation between the two fraternal countries and the potential for boosting and developing them in the service of mutual interest and to reinforce the ties of closeness and solidarity between the Tunisian and Algerian people.

In this context, the official spokesman pointed out that the two presidents dealt in particular with ways of intensifying trade exchanges, facilitating the movement of goods between the two countries, and giving impetus to the intervention of the Tunisian-Algerian bank in financing joint projects so that it can participate in the invigoration of economic and trade activity.

He added that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and his guest, the Algerian chairman, dealt with the development of the border regions with a view to making them regions of contact and strong links between the sons of the two countries. Likewise, the subject of facilitating the movement of persons and issues of residency were among the topics discussed. This underlines the joint will to intensify consultation and cooperation in various domains and at various levels.

The official spokesman said that the two presidents also dealt with the march of the Arab Maghreb Union, and the two presidents stressed the need to exert all efforts to fulfill the aspirations of the region's people for a unified Maghreb entity, where solidarity prevails and which is capable of facing up to the various challenges of events and developments at regional and international levels. In this respect, the official spokesman said that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali reaffirmed the importance of reinvigorating the Maghreb-European dialogue, whether in the 5-5 or the 5-12 frameworks, and the need to provide adequate conditions for this purpose, so as to ensure the setting up of cooperation between the two groups in the service of development, security, and stability in the Mediterranean region.

The two presidents affirmed that efforts would continue to find a peaceful settlement of the crisis between the Arab Libyan Jamahiriyah and some Western countries, which has negative repercussions not only on the Libyan people, but also on the entire region. The official spokesman said that the talks dealt also with the Palestinian issue and the peace process in the Middle East. The two presidents stressed the need to give momentum to the peace process by overcoming the prevailing obstacles, particularly the return of the Palestinian deportees to their homeland. They also reaffirmed the need to enable the Palestinian people to have their legitimate rights as a basic condition for bringing about a lasting peace, security, and stability in the region.

After these talks, an enlarged meeting was convened, which included, on the Tunisian side: Abdallah Kallel, minister of state and interior minister; Habib Ben Yahya, minister of foreign affairs; and Sadok Rabah, minister of national economy. On the Algerian side, the meeting included: Redha Malek, member of the Higher State Council and minister of foreign affairs; Mohamed Hardi, minister of interior and local communities; Mustapha Mekraoui, minister delegate in charge of trade. The meeting was also attended by the ambassadors of the two countries.

### Kafi Departs 21 Feb

*LD2102141593 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Feb 93*

[Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Ali Kafi, Algerian Higher State Council chairman, held another round of talks at Saada Palace in al-Marsa this morning. The official spokesman for the presidency said that the two presidents made a general review of the relations between the two brotherly countries. They also reaffirmed their determination to intensify consultations at all levels and to pursue bilateral cooperation and bolster its prospects in such a way as to consolidate ties of amity and fraternity between the sons of the two peoples on the path of building the edifice of the greater Arab Maghreb.

Ali Kafi left Tunisia shortly before noon today. [passage omitted]

### Border Agreement Documents Signed

*LD2102182593 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Feb 93*

[Excerpt] An official ceremony was held today at the Foreign Ministry during which Habib Ben Yahia, minister of foreign affairs, and Redha Malek, member of the Algerian Higher State Council and minister of foreign affairs, exchanged letters on defining and establishing the border between Tunisia and Algeria.

The two ministers signed letters related to the ratification of the minutes of the meetings of the Tunisian-Algerian joint experts team commissioned to define the actual marks of the border between the two fraternal countries from the Mediterranean to Bir Romane, and defining them according to the demarcation agreement contracted in Tunisia on 19 March 1983. [passage omitted]

### Joint Communique Issued

*LD2102194393 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Feb 93*

[Joint communique issued by the Tunisian and Algerian Governments at the conclusion of the visit by Ali Kafi, chairman of the Algerian Higher State Council, in Tunis on 21 February]

[Text] Within the context of the fraternal relations between Tunisia and Algeria, Chairman Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council, paid a fraternal and working visit to Tunisia on 28 and 29 Sha'ban 1413, corresponding to 20 and 21 February 1993, in response to an invitation from his brother, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia.

Chairman Kafi was accompanied by an important delegation which included in particular Their Excellencies Redha Malek, member of the Higher State Council and minister of foreign affairs; Mohamed Hardi, minister of interior and local authorities; and Mustapha Meghraoui, minister delegate to the economy minister in charge of commerce.

Chairman Ali Kafi and the accompanying delegation were warmly received in a way which reflected the close historic ties between the two fraternal countries and peoples and which also reflected the fraternal feelings

and high appreciation held by Tunisia, its president, government, and people, for Chairman Kafi and the fraternal Algerian people.

The two leaders held comprehensive talks in an atmosphere governed by the spirit of fraternity and cooperation, in which feelings of amicability and solidarity and belief in a joint fate prevailed.

During the talks, the two leaders gave special attention to the consolidation of the bilateral relations and reiterated their joint commitment and determination to strengthen these relations and to develop Tunisian-Algerian cooperation in all fields in consecration of the spirit of fraternity and solidarity and in order to achieve comprehensive development in both countries in response to the aspirations of the fraternal peoples of Tunisia and Algeria for more progress and prosperity.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Chairman Ali Kafi reviewed the aspects of the marked development in cooperation between the two countries, which stemmed from their joint political will.

They expressed their great satisfaction with the important historic achievement of the final settlement of the issue of the demarcation of the borders between the two countries when the foreign ministers of the two countries signed the exchanged letters on this issue.

They expressed their joint determination to make the border regions into bridges of fraternity and communication and regions for more joint interaction, cooperation, and development for the benefit of the two fraternal countries and those who live in these regions.

The two leaders discussed the necessary means for consolidating the bilateral cooperation in various fields. They emphasized in particular the necessity of concentrating efforts to make the cooperation structures and means more efficient. This would facilitate the movement of individuals and goods, allow the citizens of both countries to live, work, and own property, and secure the development of commercial exchanges and activate their mechanisms, including the development of the structure of the Arab Mahgreb Union [AMU] Cooperation Bank and the other joint economic institutions.

In this context the two leaders agreed to convene the 10th session of the Tunisian-Algerian joint greater committee during April 1993.

The two leaders reiterated their commitment to the concentration of efforts to move forward in the fields of democracy and human rights and toward establishing the values of civil society under the umbrella of commitment to the civilized and spiritual values of the two peoples away from fanaticism, extremism, and deviation.

They emphasized their determination to combat the phenomenon of terrorism, which is alien to our societies and our orthodox religion. They also stressed the importance of continuing the cooperation between the two countries to combat this phenomenon on the bilateral level and also through regional and international organizations.

Within the context of reviewing the course of the construction of the AMU, the two leaders blessed the important achievements of the AMU in concentrating its structures, bodies, and organizations and in defining the AMU joint working aims and programs.

The two leaders emphasized their determination to exert all efforts, together with their brother leaders of the AMU countries, toward consolidating the basis of the AMU and enriching joint AMU action in all fields in order to push forward the union and integration process within the context of the ratified agreements and programs.

The two presidents recorded with satisfaction the effective political entity which the AMU now represents, together with its status as an important party to regional and international dealings. In this context, the two presidents touched upon the crisis existing between the Libyan Jamahiriyah and some Western countries. They affirmed their concern over the sufferings of the Libyan people and the harm inflicted on them and on the rest of the Maghreban peoples as a result of the blockade. They stressed the need to continue efforts to find a peaceful, just, and honorable solution to this dangerous crisis in order to preserve the region from all the dangers of escalation that threaten its stability.

Concerning the AMU's relations with similar regional groupings, the two presidents stressed the importance of the role played by the AMU in this respect, and the need to reinforce this role, especially regarding the resumption and intensification of the dialogue with the states of southwest Europe in the framework of the 5-5 and also with the EEC in the framework of 5-12, in order to strengthen cooperation and solidarity, and boost security and stability in the Mediterranean region, given the linkage of interests and the historic and civilizational relations existing between the peoples.

The two presidents discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian issue and affirmed their full support for the Palestinian people in theirs struggle to recover their legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their own state on their land. They reviewed the efforts made in the context of the peace process and the obstacles caused to this process due to Israel's persistence in practicing a policy of violence and banishment. They stressed the need to bring back all the Palestinian deportees in accordance with Security Council Resolution 799, and underlined the importance of continuing the peace process.

Reviewing the development of the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, the two presidents expressed their concern over the acts of aggression, repressive practices, and campaigns of extermination and ethnic cleansing suffered by the people of this country in general, and

particularly the Muslims, which are at variance with all international laws and conventions and human values. They stressed the need for the international community to tackle the bloody conflict in this region with more energy and efficiency in order to put a quick end to the tragedy experienced by the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

His Excellency Chairman Ali Kafi expressed admiration for the manifestations of the overall development witnessed by Tunisia in all domains under the wise leadership of His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, and expressed his appreciation and deep gratitude for the warm welcome and sincere hospitality accorded to him and to the members of the Algerian delegation during their stay in the Republic of Tunisia. His excellency extended an invitation to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to pay an official visit to the Algerian Republic. His excellency the president accepted the invitation with thanks, and its date will be fixed later.

## Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Delegation Visits

*LD1802194593 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Feb 93*

[Text] A Ukrainian delegation is currently on official visit to Tunisia. The delegation is headed by the Ukrainian First Deputy Foreign Minister Mykola Makarevych. Mr. Habib Ben Yahya today held talks with the Ukrainian officials dealing with the prospects of cooperation between Tunisia and Ukraine in the political, economic, commercial, and technical fields.

The two countries reached an agreement providing for the abolition of visa requirements for businessmen and diplomatic and other official missions. The protocol also provides for periodic political consultations between the Tunisian and the Ukrainian foreign ministries. [passage omitted]

### Regime Said To Execute Colonel, Send Body to Family

*NC2202173093 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Text] The Iraqi regime has executed Staff Colonel Muhammad Bilal al-Jiburi, alias Abi-Rabbah, who belonged to the military branch in Irbil. Our sources say that the regime sent the body to his family in the al-Shuhrah neighborhood of Mosul and warned them not to hold funeral ceremonies.

### Talabani on Kurdish Relations With Syria

*PM2202162093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Feb 93 p 2*

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by Salwa al-Ustuwani in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Ustuwani] What is the nature of your current visit to Damascus?

[Talabani] My visit to Damascus is aimed at developing the deep-rooted struggle and the brotherly relations between the Kurdistan Front, in particular the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], and the brothers in Syria. The aim is also to eliminate the misunderstanding which resulted from the Iraqi opposition's Salah al-Din conference. And without doubt the developments and changes which have occurred in the region in the recent period require joint assessment with the brothers in Syria. Thus we came to Syria to achieve a better and stronger understanding.

[Al-Ustuwani] What problems provoked Syria's position on the Salah al-Din conference?

[Talabani] Syrian officials have an unclear picture about the resolutions adopted in Salah al-Din. There is also a misunderstanding with regard to the structure of the leadership and the executive council and with regard to the lack of pan-Arab [al-qawmiyyin] brothers, or brothers from the Iraqi opposition's pan-Arab tendency, in the leadership of the executive council. And it is natural for Syria to show interest in the developments occurring in its eastern wing.

[Al-Ustuwani] The three states which held a tripartite meeting in Damascus adopted a position on Iraq's unity and territorial integrity and rejected the establishment of a Kurdish state and Iraq's partition. What is your position on this?

[Talabani] In this connection I would like to be frank and clear and to speak in detail. We were not satisfied with that convening of that tripartite meeting, because there was no justification for it. The meeting held by the foreign ministers of three states which are Iraq's neighbors to discuss matters which concern the Iraqi people—internal matters—causes us to fear that this meeting and what was adopted in it might represent a violation of Iraq's national sovereignty. However, I can say that, first, we agree with the three foreign ministers on the issue of safeguarding Iraq's unity and nonpartition of Iraq. This is because we are interested in Iraq's national unity more than they are. And we are more interested than they are in a national, united, independent, Democratic Iraqi entity established by the will of Iraq's sons, that is Arabs, Kurds, Turkmens, Assyrians, and others. Second, we believe that Iraq's issues and Iraq's internal affairs should not be discussed without the participation of the Iraqi people's representatives and the forces concerned with real developments in the region. Existing deep contradictions between Iran and Turkey or between Turkey and Syria do not enable these states to agree fully on foreign policy, even if they have similar positions on the Kurdish issue. We do not fear these meetings, because we have friendly parties in them. We believe that, despite all the harsh statements made by some Syrian officials, Syria will remain by the side of the Iraqi people, Arabs and Kurds. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ustuwani] Let us return to the Salah al-Din conference, which evoked many problems. What did you achieve in that conference?

[Talabani] The conference was held after extensive consultations among all parties of the Iraqi opposition, including the pan-Arab brothers who participated in the preparatory committee which called for the conference. But numerous disagreements and reservations by the pan-Arab and Islamic tendencies surfaced after the conference. The disagreements which occurred between the Islamic tendency represented by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] led by Baqir al-Hakim and the brothers in the Islamic Da'wah Party and the Action Party were resolved. But the disagreement between us of the Unified Iraqi National Congress and the Iraqi opposition's pan-Arab tendency based in Syria remains. I believe we are serious about surmounting these disagreements during my current visit to Syria. It must be pointed out that Baqir al-Hakim voiced some reservations, and the Iraqi opposition delegation which visited Tehran last week was able to surmount these disagreements, and very satisfactory and positive results were reached with al-Hakim.

[Al-Ustuwani] Will you discuss the Kurdish state issue with Syrian officials?

[Talabani] Actually there is no Kurdish state idea, neither in the Kurdistan Front nor in the PUK. The Kurdistan Front and the other Iraqi opposition parties are looking for a solution to an existing issue which interacts with events, that is the Kurdish issue. The Kurdish issue was invented by no one. It emerged as a result of the historic injustice inflicted on the Kurdish people. So a solution to this issue must be found. We also believe that the pan-Arab movement too must offer its solution to the Kurdish issue. [passage omitted]

We look at federalism as a unification, not partition, process. Besides, federalism, even in the legal concept

and within international law, is not regarded as a violation of the state or an infringement of the state's entity, unity, or legal and international status. Thus federalism is nothing but democratic measures.

[Al-Ustuwani] Does that mean that you see federalism as an ideal solution to the Kurdish issue?

[Talabani] Actually we agreed with the Iraqi opposition on the following: The Kurdish people's right to self-determination within a unified, democratic Iraq, that is without secession. The Kurdistan National Assembly, which was elected completely freely, interpreted this right as a federal union between the fraternal Kurdish and Arab peoples within one Arab entity. Our brother Islamists interpreted it as a provinces system, which is known in Islam and is actually a kind of federalism, but is not federalism. Because the provinces system guarantees all administrative, political, economic, cultural, and even military rights for the province in question. Through a decision from the parliamentary council elected by the Kurds we have reached a conclusion, namely that federalism in current conditions is the right solution to the Kurdish issue, that is within a unified democratic Iraqi entity. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ustuwani] Does that mean that no entity will be established in the form of a Kurdish state?

[Talabani] As far as our generation is concerned, we believe that a Kurdish state is unachievable, which is why we are struggling for the sake of achievable aims. There is a Kurdish problem whose existence no one can deny. There are about 10 million Kurds in Iran, 15 million Kurds in Turkey, and 5.5 million Kurds in Iraq. And there are millions of Kurds living everywhere in the world: in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Russia, Europe, Australia, and the Scandinavian states. This historically oppressed and forcibly divided people must seek to find a just solution to their issue. This solution concerns the Kurds alone, and their problem should be resolved within a unified, democratic Iraqi entity. As for the other parts of Kurdistan, the matters is left to their parties, people, and masses to decided how to resolve their issue. As for us, we cannot think about creating a separate independent state for the Kurdish people, although the Kurdish people have their right to self-determination like all the other peoples of the world. And the Kurdish people are deprived of their national rights more than any other people at present.

This people and their issue cannot be ignored any longer. I say that there is an amazing and strange misunderstanding, on the part of the Arab brothers, of the Kurdish issue. This is why I repeat my previous call for an Arab-Kurdish seminar to discuss Arab-Kurdish relations in a contemporary and new manner.

[Al-Ustuwani] What is the status of relations between the Kurds and the Iraqi opposition, and are there dialogues or coordinated positions?

[Talabani] Our relations with the Iraqi opposition are very good. We are an important component of the Unified Iraqi National Congress. Our relationship with the Islamic tendency is good and we have excellent relations with the SAIRI, as the PUK has a bilateral agreement signed by me and Baqir al-Hakim. There are also special relations binding us to the pan-Arab tendency. And even though there has been coolness in these relations, we are going to work to return them to normal and hence strengthen relations with the pan-Arab tendency once again.

[Al-Ustuwani] Your relationship with Kurdistan Democratic Party leader Mas'ud Barzani was more than excellent, and there was complete coordination between you. Is the situation still the same?

[Talabani] My relationship with brother Mas'ud Barzani is still more than excellent.

[Al-Ustuwani] What is the status of relations between the Kurds and both Iran and Turkey, especially after the tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers and the statements they made?

[Talabani] Many improvements have occurred in relations with Iran recently. A PUK delegation visited Iran and was able to eliminate a lot of the misunderstandings and illusions. Then a technical delegation belonging to the regional [iqlimiyah] government visited Tehran to resolve some problems. There are also attempts to improve our relations with Iran, especially as we were bound by relations of joint struggle against dictatorship. And we still have good memories of the friendly relations which existed between us, and we are seeking to develop these relations. As for Turkey, our relations with it are normal and getting better. There is a common understanding between us on the need to protect the Kurdish people and on the need for the coalition forces to stay to defend the Kurdish people against any possible Iraq attack or aggression. A complete understanding was reached between us on protection of the border after the regional Kurdish government took control of the border, towns, and villages and was able to secure the Turkish-Iraqi border and prevent the infiltration of those who had been fighting against Turkey from Iraqi territory. Thus we believe our relations with Turkey are moving toward the better.

[Al-Ustuwani] Will you discuss the tripartite meeting issue with the Syrians?

[Talabani] Certainly I will discuss all questions with the brothers in Syria. And I will express my opinion of that meeting. I will meet with President Hafiz al-Asad and broach with him conditions in Iraq, the Salah al-Din conference, and the future of the Kurds and the Kurdish issue.

## More on Kurdish-Syrian Ties

*JN2102095393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0540 GMT 21 Feb 93*

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK, by Sana' al-Iman, carried within the "Today's Guest" program, in Damascus; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Imam] Mr. Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the PUK, which Syrian officials have you met with in Damascus and what topics did you discuss with them?

[Talabani] I met with [Vice President] 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and [Ba'th Party Assistant Secretary General] 'Abdallah al-Ahmar. The topics we discussed with Mr. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam focused on the situation in Iraq in general, and in the southern and northern parts in particular, the situation of the Iraqi opposition, and the disagreements existing in its ranks, as well as the ways to unite the Iraqi opposition. We also discussed the solid and historical relations that have existed for a long time between the Kurdistan Front and the brothers in Syria, and the need to develop these relations in the service of Iraq and Syria.

[Al-Imam] You announce on every occasion that you have no intention to secede from Iraq. How do you then explain the establishment of administration institutions such as an army, a parliament, and a government? Are these not state symbols rather than institutions within the limits of an autonomy rule, and how do you understand autonomy?

[Talabani] The Kurdistan Front, and the Kurdish deputies elected to the Kurdistan Legislative Council have announced that the Kurdish people neither wish nor have any intention to secede from Iraq. The Iraqi Government is the one which seceded from us when it withdrew the administration and forces from the Kurdistan area and refused to officially maintain its presence in the area administered by the Kurdistan regional government. After the government left an area where some 3.5 million people live, it was necessary to have an administration to run the affairs of these people in terms of the cultural, health, administrative, and the social and daily services such as electricity and water. [passage omitted]

[Al-Imam] Syrian, Turkish, and Iranian foreign ministers held a meeting in Damascus last week to discuss the situation in Iraq, namely, in the northern part. A similar meeting was held in Ankara, and another meeting will be held in Tehran. How do the Kurds view these meetings, which emphasize Iraq's territorial integrity and reject a Kurdish state in northern Iraq?

[Talabani] We do not disagree with the three foreign ministers in the concern over maintaining and safeguarding Iraqi unity. As I have said, we do not seek to establish an independent Kurdish state. All that we want is to have a democratic and parliamentary Iraq where the people in Iraq's Kurdistan will be part of this Iraqi entity, enjoying their democractic and federal rights.

As for the meeting of the three foreign ministers to discuss internal affairs in Iraq, it is neither acceptable by the Kurds in Iraq nor by all the Iraqi people, who view it with displeasure. Iraqi issues should be settled by the Iraqi people without any foreign interference. We have many reservations toward the countries which participate in these conferences with Syria, countries where more than 20 million Kurds live deprived of the most basic human and democratic rights. [passage omitted]

[Al-Imam] It is known that Syria has embraced the Iraqi opposition, of which you are a part. However, it opposed the Salah-al-Din conference because that conference sought to enhance the Kurdish state and did not represent all the factions of the Iraqi opposition. What are doing now to end the tension between you and Syria?

[Talabani] It is true that Syria embraced the Iraqi opposition, including the Kurdish opposition. We, in the PUK, are ever grateful and thankful to Syria—leader, government, and party for the generous and noble assistance it has provided to the Iraqi opposition, including the PUK and the Iraqi Kurdistan Front. Syria's support for the Iraqi opposition has never been characterized by attempts to impose Syrian stands and viewpoints on the opposition. We thank Syria for this and view it as something positive. Unfortunately, following the Salah al-Din conference, differences surfaced between us and the brothers in Syria as a result of many issues dealing with the arrangements for the conference, the parties which attended it, and the slogans it raised and stands it adopted. We are trying with all our efforts to overcome these differences and unite our stands with the brothers in Syria. However, we need some time to clarify things, eliminate the misunderstanding, and explain the facts to the brothers in Syria. One of the most important objectives of my visit to Syria is to explain the facts to the brothers in Syria about the the Unified Iraqi National Conference. [passage omitted].

[Al-Imam] You have received messages from the Iraqi Government on the need to hold negotiations with the Kurds. How did you tackle these messages?

[Talabani] The Kurdistan Front was skeptical about the sincerity of the Iraqi Government's intentions. It viewed these messages as a maneuver by the Iraqi Government to make the Kurds fall into the trap of new futile negotiations. The Kurdistan Front asked the Iraqi Government to lift the economic and political siege first, then adopt measures that would create an appropriate atmosphere, proclaim its intention to end the dictatorship, and accept pluralism, democray, and public liberties to facilitate dialogue between the Iraqi opposition and the Iraqi Government.

[Al-Imam] One last question. Has Iran opened the borders with the Kurds?

[Talabani] Yes, the Iranian Government recently opened its borders with the Kurdish area which is administered by the regional government of Kurdistan. Iran is now offering facilities for the exchange of goods and trade between the two areas.

[Al-Imam] Thank you.

### Kurdish Radio on Opposition Council Meeting

*JN2002201093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Feb 93*

[Text] The Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi Conference held its fifth meeting at its headquarters in the resort town of Salah al-Din on 20 February. Members of the Presidential Council attended the meeting. They are Muhammad Bahr al-'Ulum, Mas'ud Barzani, and Major General Hasan Mustafa al-Naqib. Ahmad al-Jalabi, head of the Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi Conference, was also in attendance.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Hammam Hammudi, deputy council chairman and representative of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], delivered a valuable speech because this was his first appearance at the council since issues raised by SAIRI have been settled. Brother Hammam's speech included valuable observations which were discussed in a positive and objective manner.

The Executive Council then discussed the draft working plan drawn up by the ad hoc committee and which covers current political issues, human rights, food assistance, and in-field and media activities.

The Executive Council's observations were conveyed to the committee for approving the plan in its final form.

### Regime Forces Shell Peshmerga Positions 18-19 Feb

*NC2002182993 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 20 Feb 93*

[Text] On the night of 18-19 February, Iraqi forces shelled peshmerga frontline positions in the (Shaykh Zangar) area for one hour. The Iraqi forces resumed the bombardment the next morning for two hours. The peshmerga battalion returned fire on the enemy forces in the areas of (Kanlafi), (Mirwari), and Dakkah.

### U.S. Said To Reject Kuwaiti Bribes on Embargo

*JN2302110193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that the al-Sabah regime's attempts to influence the new U.S. Administration's policy and evoke its hostility toward Iraq are in full harmony with the line followed by the Zionist lobby, which has well-known influence on the U.S. political decisionmaking.

In an article today entitled "The al-Sabah Regime and the Pursuit of the Zionist Role," the paper adds that the scandal over the al-Sabah regime's monetary bribes to the new U.S. Administration's officials in return for continuing the embargo against the Iraqi people not only reveals the Zionist character of the al-Sabah regime and its full support for the real enemies of the Arabs but also discloses this regime's lack of any Arab blood.

AL-JUMHURIYAH explains that both the expansion and new feature of the conspiracy are evident not only in the offering of $31 billion but also in the fact that the al-Sabah family's offer coincided with Bill Clinton's new program for reviving the U.S. economy, which is suffering major crises that were a legacy of war criminal Bush.

Concluding, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: It seems, however, that the al-Sabah family's money and oil did not receive a favorable response from the current U.S. Administration as it did during the former administration's term. This is because the new U.S. Administration rejected this dirty offer and considered it an exposed attempt to buy U.S. policy.

### Saddam Cables Qatari Amir on Accession Anniversary

*JN2202112693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0842 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to his brother Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, on the anniversary of his accession to power. Following is the text of the cable:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar.

On the anniversary of your accession to power, it gives us pleasure to send to your highness warmest congratulations and sincerest brotherly greetings, wishing your highness continued health and happiness and the fraternal Arab people in Qatar further progress, invincibility, and prosperity.

With my best brotherly regards.

God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Your brother, Saddam Husayn

### Paper on Importance of Self-Reliance, Intrinsic Power

*JN2302115493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has affirmed that the historic Mother of Battles has restored the Arab nation's confidence in itself and in its ability to triumph and defeat the enemies.

In an article today, the paper, speaking on behalf of the Defense Ministry, adds that real fortune and invincible strength lie in self-reliance and intrinsic power because these are the basis of independence and sovereignty, and cannot be affected by blockade or defeated by aggression. The paper explains that no power, regardless of its strength, can achieve its objective after Iraq has provided a model for history in steadfastness and confrontation, and after it has provided the Arab nation with numerous achievements.

AL-QADISIYAH points out that by accomplishing the Saddam River the Arab Iraqis have broken the foreigners' monopoly, dealt a blow to the hearts of aggression, and opened future horizons for self-reliance. Concluding, the paper says: If the Sykes-Picot agreement had not drawn borders which the local guards pledged to turn into an iron barrier, the Saddam River would have reached the Arabian Gulf or its waters would have reached the sands in northern Najd, turning Hafar al-Batin into a green oasis that would form the basis of Arab cooperation.

## Trade Minister Optimistic on Future of Economy

*JN2102161793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic*
*21 Feb 93 pp 28, 24*

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, Iraqi minister of trade, has said that it is economically worthwhile for Iraqis to invest in the Iraqi dinar. If the economic sanctions are lifted, the Iraqi dinar will rally, he asserted.

The forecast by the Iraqi minister, who is visiting Jordan to contract purchases for the blessed month of Ramadan, was made in an exclusive interview with AL-DUSTUR. The devaluation of the Iraqi dinar is nowhere near the depreciation of the Russian ruble, which, he noted, has fallen two hundred times over. This, when, unlike Iraq, Russia is not under siege nor are its markets sealed.

The minister credited the relative strength of the Iraqi dinar to the strong political will of Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people's steadfastness behind his leadership. Aggressors had bargained on a collapse of the Iraqi people's will, but they are now convinced that Iraq's resolve to safeguard its sovereignty and resources is not open to question.

Iraq, he observed, is rich with natural resources and has the second largest oil reserves in the world. Iraq's reentry into the oil market once the sanctions are removed will go a long way toward restoring the dinar to its presanctions status.

Iraq's reconstruction effort after the aggression—drawing on the Iraqi dinar and its own resources—has saved the country $100 billion, which would have otherwise gone to foreign firms. These firms, explained the minister, had estimated that the reconstruction effort would cost $100 billion spread over five years.

This means that if and when the embargo is lifted, Iraq will not incur the payment of huge sums of money.

Thanks to a successful tapping of the Iraqi people's reservoir of willpower, they are meeting production targets both in agriculture and industry. Citing President Saddam Husayn, Salih said that self- reliance was now an established policy that will be pursued once the sanctions are scrapped.

Besides, he added, Iraq has $5 billion in frozen funds overseas, and its return to the oil market should bring in $15-20 billion annually.

A political breakthrough would bring in its wake massive investment which, in turn, would push up the value of the Iraqi dinar, declared Salih.

Representatives of Western companies, particularly from France, have been visiting Baghdad to conclude economic and commercial deals. Some companies are showing readiness to implement projects and supply food items and medicines and be reimbursed after the lifting of the sanctions.

The shortage in medicines and children's food has raised infant mortality rate by 13 times for under fives, compared with the year preceding the embargo.

He indicated that Iraq has sued the Bank of International Settlements for damages for causing the death of 65,000 Iraqi children in the interval between UN Security Council Resolutions 687 and 778. The bank refused to unfreeze $400 million so that Iraq could pay for baby formula purchases. Overall, the sanctions have caused 160,000 deaths, said the minister.

A Swiss court in Basel is prosecuting this case as the first human rights case in Iraq. Depriving the Iraqi people of food and medicine violates the Geneva Conventions and other international pacts. Iraq, he pointed out, has $400 million in frozen assets in Bahrain and $22 million in Tunisia. Some of these funds might have been released, Salih said, citing the examples of Switzerland, Spain, Greece, and even Britain and Canada.

## Reportage on Visit of U.S. Secretary of State

### Peres Welcomes Christopher

*TA2202200693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1943 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Statement by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at Ben-Gurion Airport upon the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher; in English—live]

[Text] Mr. Secretary of State, Mr. Christopher, I would like to welcome you here in our country as a cherished guest representing a mission of the utmost importance for us, for the region, for peace. We know that you are representing an administration that has raised the hopes of the whole of the free world, that has started anew the process of peace. And we do hope that this is the first step to the renewal of the peace negotiations, something which we are awaiting anxiously, with great expectation. We are welcoming you here with great respect, hope, and friendship. You know how dear the relations between the United States and Israel are to all of us, and I am sure that you will represent it with great devotion and talent. Welcome to Israel!

### Official Expects 'Serious Dialogue'

*TA2302062993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[Telephone interview with Eytan Bentzur, Foreign Ministry deputy director in charge of North America, by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] When Warren Christopher says that the United States wants to be an active partner, do you have a clue what he means?

[Bentzur] The secretary of state will most definitely make clear the role he is setting for the United States when he meets with the foreign minister and the prime minister this morning, but in my view, this refers to a U.S. readiness to offer the sides advice and ideas. I believe that under no circumstances is it an expression of a desire to intervene in the talks, but rather a desire to continue to respect the concept of direct negotiations.

[Zissowitz] There are those who might be concerned that an active partnership means, in fact, pressure on Israel to continue to make concessions to get the peace talks going again.

[Bentzur] I think there is no sign of that. You cannot pressure somebody who, of his own initiative, wants to reach a settlement and is immersed in working out ideas on how to advance the peace process. I believe he wants to be at the disposal of the sides and serve as a catalyst and accelerator for the peace talks, which are not moving anywhere.

[Zissowitz] The U.S. secretary of state has come here with promises by all the other participants in the peace talks to return to the negotiating table in April. What else could he ask Israel for, in your view?

[Bentzur] In my view, he will respect the agreement he reached with the prime minister on the issue of the deportees. I do not think that Israel will be presented with any further U.S. requests. The visit is the result of the United States' desire to underline the Clinton administration's deep interest in the resumption of the process and in advancing it, to emphasize its awareness that 1993 can be a decisive year, and to stress that we are facing a historic opportunity which must be exploited.

[Zissowitz] Will there be further Israeli movement to make a gesture to the Arabs on the deportee issue?

[Bentzur] I think that the U.S.-Israeli agreement resolves that issue...

[Zissowitz, interrupting] But there are already additional U.S. demands.

[Bentzur] We are not aware of such demands, definitely not prior to the talks. The U.S.-Israeli accord has the backing of the United Nations, provided by the Security Council president on 11 February. Therefore, anybody who demands any change in the agreement is acting contrary to the announcement by the Security Council president.

[Zissowitz] We are meeting a new secretary of state and a new administration. Will each side try to evaluate and study the rival—no, not the rival, but the other side?

[Bentzur] First, the intention is to study a friend. Last week, we were given the first opportunity to observe the level of friendship the secretary of state feels toward Israel and its leaders. I think we can expect a serious dialogue and talks with a sincere partner, whose only wish is to advance the political process.

### Peres Calls Talks 'Excellent'

*TA2302095493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0837 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondent Natan Gutman at the Foreign Ministry, in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Gutman] The first meeting between the U.S. secretary of state and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and their parties lasted 45 minutes and has just ended. The secretary of state has entered his vehicle. We want to hear from Foreign Minister Peres what took place at the meeting. Mr. Peres, what can you tell us after your first meeting?

[Peres] It was an excellent meeting. We started to discuss the multilateral negotiations. We made a series of proposals, and their attitude was very positive. I believe it was a very good start.

[Gutman] Did the deportee issue crop up?

[Peres] No, not here.

[Gutman And the bilateral negotiations?

[Peres] No, that will be discussed in the talks with the prime minister, and we will join the talks later.

[Gutman] What is it that you want to see from the United States? Greater involvement in the multilateral track?

[Peres] We would like them to be more involved, to define what each side does, and to explain that certain issues—for instance, the water, refugee, and arms control issues—may prevent an agreement if we do not deal with them in time. These are all issues we have started to deal with, and they must not be neglected. I told the secretary that political inaction is as dangerous as economic unemployment. We must get back to work as quickly as possible and activate all the countries and organizations that are eager to participate, and this was received with understanding.

[Gutman] Is there a date for resuming the multilaterals?

[Peres] We have not begun to discuss dates. I assume that we will start toward the end of the visit.

[Gutman] Did the secretary of state tell you how he views U.S. involvement in the process?

[Peres] He said it publicly. He defined it as being a facilitator. I defined it as a bridge builder. We know that the U.S. role is to come up with constructive proposals when an issue reaches a dead end. It does not impose arrangements. The best example of that is the deportee issue. They came up with a compromise proposal that was accepted by the Israeli Government, and it moved the cart from the point where it was stuck.

[Gutman] Thank you, Mr. Peres.

### Rabin Aides on Meeting

*TA2302120293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[Excerpt] A successful meeting, a meeting that enabled the United States and Israel to clarify their positions—this is how the prime minister's aides described the meeting between Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The U.S. guest reported his impression that the Arab countries are interested in returning to the negotiating table as soon as possible. The deportee question did not feature in an earlier meeting with his Israeli counterpart, Shim'on Peres. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman has been following the U.S. secretary of state's activities:

Shalom and good day to you from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem, where U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has just finished the first round of talks with Israel's leaders at the outset of his two-day visit to Jerusalem. It was a good and beneficial meeting, Warren Christopher said about 15 minutes ago, at the end of his meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and a large Israeli team; the meeting was was devoted to an exchange of impressions and ideas concerning the peace process. Secretary Christopher told Rabin: The new President, Bill Clinton, is determined to promote the peace process in the Middle East.

The main message in the Christopher-Rabin meeting may have been Christopher's declaration that the Arab countries are very interested in resuming the peace process and that they see no linkage between a resumption of the process and a solution of the deportee problem. Here is what Gad Ben-Ari, the prime minister's media adviser, had to say after the meeting:

[Begin Ben-Ari recording] In all the countries he visited, he found a wish, even a strong wish, to see a resumption of the peace process as soon as possible. [end recording]

To repeat, the Arab countries did not make the resumption of the peace process contingent on a solution of the deportee problem. Referring to the latter, Ben-Ari said that the deportee question was not broached directly in the talk between the prime minister and the secretary of state. Christopher raised the question of human rights and the situation in the territories, and Prime Minister Rabin replied that Israel wants to hand over as many powers as possible to the Palestinians in the territories, but that this will not be done at the expense of Israel's security.

As for U.S. involvement—what Christopher terms active involvement—in the process, the prime minister's aides said at the end of the meeting: There is full understanding between Israel and the United States about the need for active involvement on the part of the Americans without infringing on the Madrid rules. The United States will not become an arbiter in the process but will evince active—this is the key word—involvement. [passage omitted]

[A related report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 23 February adds: "It is clear to Christopher—and this question came up in today's talks—that the toughest challenge is to encourage the Palestinians to come to the negotiating table. This issue actually came up in two contexts: 1) The deportee issue, which hovered over the meeting hall, even though it is clear that the United States will not exert pressure to renege on the agreement made a few weeks ago; 2) The briefing given by Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of activities in the territories, who presented to the U.S. secretary of state the measures introduced in the territories to lighten taxes and encourage investments—namely, plans to scrap the exit tax collected at the Jordan River bridges, to ease family reunifications, and to allow the return of old-time deportees."]

### Beilin on U.S. Role in Talks

*TA2202183093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin has welcomed Secretary Christopher's promise of increased U.S. involvement in the peace process. However, Beilin says Israel will reject an Arab proposal that the United States participate directly in the bilateral talks. Reporter Jack Katzenell asked him if Israel would agree to bring home two-thirds of the expelled Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists before the next round of the bilateral talks and the rest by the end of August, as Christopher has reportedly proposed.

[Begin recording] [Beilin] The agreement between Israel and the United States before the... [pauses] in the Security Council, was a final one. I do not believe that the Americans will suggest today to change it, neither that Israel will be ready to do something about it. I believe that it was a very important compromise. We went a long way, and that was a final agreement.

[Katzenell] The secretary of state said in Damascus that he will be more involved in the Middle East negotiations than the United States was before, meaning the Bush administration. Would Israel agree to this Arab suggestion from the Arab governments that the United States sit in on the bilateral talks?

[Beilin] Well, first of all, I wouldn't dismiss the activity of the previous administration. Both President Bush and Secretary Baker helped us very much, and without them there wouldn't be the convening of the Madrid conference. Nevertheless, of course, we will welcome the increasing of the American involvement. We do believe that without an American involvement there will not be peace in the Middle East, and that this involvement should not be, of course, taking part directly in the bilateral talks; that we should continue with the Arab side, but nevertheless, the involvement of the Americans by transmitting messages from one to another, explaining or understanding better the real view of both sides, and in many other ways their involvement is indispensable and we will welcome it very much, as long as it is not becoming a pressure. I believe that pressure will be counterproductive, and I also believe that the new administration is not thinking about pressure on Israel. [end recording]

### Prime Minister Interviewed on Peace Process

*AU2202190893 Hamburg DIE WELT in German 22 Feb 93 p 9*

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Lothar Ruehl; place and date not given: "Yitzhaq Rabin: There is Room for Flexibility in the Middle East"]

[Text] [Ruehl] The negotiations with the Arabs about a peace settlement have been interrupted. How will things continue, and how can one overcome the obstacle of the HAMAS activists who have been deported to Lebanon?

[Rabin] I do not think one side can impose conditions on the other for continuing the peace negotiations. I have not imposed the condition that the Arabs first have to stop the acts of terrorism, the violence, and the murders of Israelis and Palestinians in the territories, where we have had the responsibility for their safety since 1967. I do not believe that the Arabs have the right to impose conditions on us when we react to terror and violence.

When the terrorism against Israelis reached its climax, the Israeli people asked: "How can you continue to negotiate peace when the Arabs are killing Israelis?" At that time I said what I am still saying today: We are doing what is necessary against terrorism and violence, even if we do not negotiate. This means: Terror and violence must always be fought. They must not, however, prevent us from negotiating about peace, because, after all, the goal is to end the conflict.

Therefore, I do not accept on principle the fact that, as soon as we take measures against terrorism, which are legal according to our laws, and particularly when no one is killed or injured, as in the case of the temporary deportation of more than 400 illegal HAMAS members, instigators, and organizers, it is permissible to accuse us of sabotaging the negotiations. Particularly not because HAMAS refuses to make peace with Israel and tries to end the negotiations with all possible means of violence.

[Ruehl] Will this incident, which has given HAMAS an opportunity to demonstrate for its cause worldwide and which interrupted the negotiations, continue to be an obstacle to progress in the peace process?

[Rabin] Since I am of the opinion that the compromise, which I concluded with the U.S. secretary of state, is maintained by us and by the United States—this means for the United States that it prevented a resolution by the UN Security Council, which was intended to condemn Israel—the path to resuming the negotiations should be open. I hope that the Arabs will recognize that and return to the negotiating table. If peace were not in the interest of both sides, it would probably never be achieved. Making peace is not an act of charity, but is in our mutual interest. It can be achieved only through negotiations, with the goal of concluding an agreement to end war, violence, and terrorism and to establish peaceful negotiations. Therefore, a common denominator must be found between all conflicting parties in the peace negotiations.

In our case, this means a political solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, that is, a peace agreement or at least important steps in this direction on a bilateral basis between Israel and each individual Arab country with which we are negotiating: Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the Palestinians in the territories, which have been administered by Israel since 1967.

[Ruehl] Do you assume that these three countries are actively supporting the negotiations?

[Rabin] I assume that all of them are interested in the peace process. The acid test will be the discussions with the Americans, which the U.S. secretary of state is initiating. On this occasion the decisions must be made to resume the negotiations. Afterward, around the end of February, the Islamic month of fasting Ramadan will begin. During this time it is impossible to negotiate with Muslims—this was the case in 1992. Then we have the Jewish Easter celebrations, and then we will be in April.

[Ruehl] Why should Syria be interested in resuming the negotiations without delay and in permitting progress through negotiations? Damascus seems to be striving for simply ending the state of armed hostilities without a binding peace agreement, at least as long as it cannot expect a return of the entire Golan area.

[Rabin] I think that the Syrians understand that Israel is ready to move backwards on the Golan Heights [sich auf den Golanhoehen zurueckzuziehen]. Also, I think that in Damascus they are thinking about to the extent it would be advisable for Syria to return to the state of war. Egypt has withdrawn from the cycle of war, and Iraq has suffered a setback in its ability to provide support in war—not to mention the tensions between Syria and Iraq.

All this is overshadowed by the fundamental change in the international constellation: the demise of the Soviet Union and the complete change in Russian policy. After all, it was the political, military, and economic support by the Soviet Union since 1955-56 which protected Syria in all crises. Today Syria's debts for this support by the Soviet Union come to about $11 billion, mainly for weapons and military equipment.

Russia, which is in great economic difficulties, is trying to collect these Syrian debts, while continuing to arm Syria but only in return for cash on delivery in hard currency. This is a fundamental change in the situation to Syria's disadvantage.

[Ruehl] Has the entire international situation not changed to Syria's disadvantage?

[Rabin] The Syrians realize that at the moment there is only one superpower—the United States. Under these conditions, it is not advantageous to maintain the Arab-Israeli conflict and, with the old hostility, to maintain a latent state of war with Israel—that is, to counteract the U.S. interest in providing this region with stability and peace. There are enough other sources of unrest in the Middle East. Whoever tries to maintain instability and hostility in this region, opposes U.S. policy, and this time without any external support.

[Ruehl] Thus, you assume that this is sufficient reason for the Syrians to work for a peaceful solution of the problems with Israel?

[Rabin] For the time being, I recognize their readiness to participate in the peace negotiations. I also assume that they come in good faith to end the time of war with Israel, of course, as a result of the negotiations.

[Ruehl] You do not expect such intentions to be harmed by incidents, such as the one involving the HAMAS camp in Lebanon and the effect of the international media coverage on the Arab public opinion?

[Rabin] I do not say that the Syrians are insensitive to this phenomenon. But one must recall that about 10 years ago Syria took extremely harsh measures against Islamic extremists—the "Muslim Brotherhood" in Hama, which tried to undermine the regime. The same problem, which we are facing in the territories administered by Israel, exists in Egypt and in Jordan today: the problem of Islamic fundamentalism. In Egypt the Islamic extremists are attacking foreign tourists to reduce tourism, which provides 30 to 40 percent of the resources of the Egyptian economy, and to bring the political regime down on the ruins of the economy. They have declared war against the Egyptian Government. This war in Egypt continues, not to mention the situations in Algeria and Tunisia. This problem also exists in Jordan and, of course, among the Palestinians.

One must always think of the fact that all Arab political groups in Gaza and the West Bank—that is, basically the PLO, the Islamic Jihad, and HAMAS, or the Islamic Resistance Movement—are involved in violence and terrorism and use terrorism as a weapon against the peace negotiations to prevent peace. They do not deny this intention—on the contrary, they proclaim it. I hope that the Arab countries, including Syria, which are interested in continuing the negotiations even if they do not agree with us, will recognize the necessity to continue the peace process in the interest of all parties involved without consideration for this extremist opposition. This opposition does not want any peace with Israel anyway, but is trying to block the negotiations with terrorism.

[Ruehl] How could a common interest between Israel, the Arab countries involved, and the Palestinians be determined in line with realistic political yardsticks so that the success of the negotiations can be ensured?

[Rabin] If peace is to begin in this region, all parties to the conflict—Syria and Jordan, as well as Israel—must develop a common interest in it. Egypt, too, which made peace with Israel in 1979 and has lived in peace with us since then, is interested in seeing the basis of this peace consolidated and broadened. What was agreed on between Egypt and Israel can also be written into the peace treaties with other Arab states. There may be problems about the specific conditions and clauses of treaties, but the common basis for the negotiations, which was set down by the Madrid conference, could not have been implemented if there had not been readiness for negotiations by all sides and an interest in ending the state of war.

Of course, one must distinguish between the readiness to make peace and the conditions of the peace agreement, the clauses of the treaty, about which agreement must be

reached in negotiations. In addition, there are all those who oppose peace, but whose opposition must be overcome. Today no one can give a clear and binding answer to this question about the political opposition against peace as long as the negotiations have not provided a definitive result. As soon as the negotiations have been successful, however, there will also be a breakthrough for peace. Until then, nothing is certain.

[Ruehl] How long will it take until positive results can be achieved in the negotiations as soon as the negotiations have been resumed? Should one expect very protracted negotiations, which might take years?

[Rabin] I do not hope so. In my personal view, an initial agreement with at least one of the Arab participants must be achieved by the end of 1993 or early in 1994 at the latest. If this were not the case, all sides would be frustrated, and this means a rise in regional tension.

We are approaching a crossroads in these negotiations. There it will be decided in which direction the Arab-Israeli conflict continues to develop: toward a renewal of tensions, toward an escalation of the arms race, toward heightened instability with rising security risks, or in the direction of a peaceful settlement and regional stability. This orientation toward the future will probably be decided within the next 12 to 18 months.

[Ruehl] What should and what could be the final political goal of this development?

[Rabin] As regards the relationship with Syria, the current Israeli Government has made it clear that it considers UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 applicable to the negotiations between Israel and Syria: We have stated that we accept the principle of moving armed forces on the Golan Heights back behind secure and recognized international borders.

We will not enter negotiations on the extent of such a retreat as long as Syria has not given us clear and binding answers to two questions:

1. Does the word "peace" mean for Syria open borders with Israel for persons and goods, peaceful relations between the two countries, including the exchange of ambassadors and trade, as well as a policy which encourages a normalization of the relationship?

2. Would a peace treaty between Syria and Israel stand on its own two legs, in other words, independent of relations with other parties, not subject to what would or would not be achieved with other Arab partners?

As long as we do not have any clear answers to these two points on a bilateral basis with Syria, we will not be able to say how much we will move backward on the Golan. This question reminds me of the old question of what was here first, the chicken or the egg. Regardless of that, the Syrian answers to these questions will then at least tell us where we stand with Syria. Israel, in any case, has recognized the principle of moving its armed forces backward on the Golan.

[Ruehl] And the Palestinians?

[Rabin] The problems with them are a bit more complicated, of course. They see the proposed interim agreement an arrangement which can lead only to one solution: the founding of an independent Palestinian state. The formal invitation to the Madrid conference, however, which was issued by the two co-sponsors, the United States and the (then) Soviet Union to all participants as a basis for the negotiations, clearly says that the solution of the problem is to be found in two stages:

Stage one: autonomy of the Palestinians in the territories in question for a transition period of five years;

Stage two: three years at the latest after the interim agreement has come into force, negotiations about the definitive solutions on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

In our view, the interim agreement is not only supposed to provide the option for a solution. The Palestinians know that, in contrast to its predecessor, the current Israeli Government is not striving to keep the entire land of Israel, including the territories in question, under Israeli sovereignty. We say almost the opposite, namely that we do not want to annex the majority of the 1.8 million Palestinians and the territories where they settle. On the other hand, we are against a withdrawal behind the former demarcation lines of the cease-fire from the time before June 1967. Thus, there is room for a compromise, for political flexibility, which did not exist with the former Israeli Government.

[Ruehl] Will the Palestinians view this difference positively?

[Rabin] I do not know. There is no simple and easy solution, but the international conditions for solving the problems have changed even though the problem continues to exist.

[Ruehl] You say that the negotiations will be approaching a "crossroads" approximately within the coming 12 to 18 months. Does this mean that you do not expect the process to be blocked by then?

[Rabin] I hope not. In any case, we must establish something that works.

[Ruehl] Are you setting this limit for the negotiations until the breakthrough with a view to domestic events in Israel, such as parliamentary elections?

[Rabin] No, this is not the problem. I think that the Israeli people want peace, of course, a peace with security for Israel. This is what we are working for.

[Ruehl] Since 1967 Israel has occupied, in addition to the Golan, the formerly West Jordanian territory and the Gaza Strip. It also has military control of the situation. This gives you a certain position of strength for a compromise in the negotiations. What do you mean by "room for political flexibility?"

[Rabin] I think that the two-stage approach of Madrid to settling the problem is very wise. In my view, the Palestinians will have the opportunity to shape their lives in this territory in their own way without the dictates of foreigners. Free of the dictate of others, this is the nature of autonomy. Then, one day, an entity—you may call it a federation or a confederation between Jordan, a Palestinian territory, and Israel—might develop. This is a possibility.

I do not want Israel to commit itself to a precise, specific formula. The best method is to take the first step, via the interim agreement for Palestinian autonomy, which no one has ever offered to the Palestinians, as long as they were ruled by an Arab authority.

The advantage is that a Palestinian entity can be established, not yet a state, because autonomy is a political territorial entity. The important thing is the process, the direction, not the specific result.

[Ruehl] What about elections in the Palestinian territories?

[Rabin] As defense minister in the government of national unity I suggested elections in 1989 to select a Palestinian delegation to the negations. Since then we have negotiated with a non-elected delegation within the framework of the mandate of the Madrid conference. It would be a mistake to repeat the old proposal again today. Elections are not necessary now. They would only waste valuable time that is needed for the negotiations and, in addition, they would undermine the authority of the Palestinian negotiators. Later, however, the elections for the planned executive council for Palestinian self-administration, which is to implement the agreement in the territories, could be held.

Thus, we Israelis can only offer elections. The Palestinians mut then decide themselves when and how such elections are to be organized by an agreement after the end of the negotiations.

## IDF Regrets Death of UN Soldier, Denies Firing

*TA2302054093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[Excerpt] UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] has lodged complaints with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] over the death of a UN soldier and the wounding of another yesterday. The casualties resulted from a mortar shell falling on the UN position. More details from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami.

The IDF has expressed regret over the incident and at the death of a Nepalese soldier in UNIFIL and said that no Israeli artillery was involved in shooting last night. The mortar shell which hit the UN post, located just beyond the security zone, apparently came from a South Lebanon Army position. The UNIFIL spokesman said that the area of the UN post was quiet when two mortar bombs fell on the position, killing a Nepalese soldier and seriously wounding another. However, according to one military source, mortar shells had earlier been fired from the area at SLA positions in the west-central sector of the security zone, drawing return fire toward Hizballah positions from SLA gunners. [passage omitted]

## Decision To Send UN Investigator Criticized

*TA2102093593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Feb 93 pp A1, A10*

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Shlomo Shamir]

[Excerpt] The decision of the UN Human Rights Commission to send an investigator to the territories was greeted with restraint in Jerusalem, seeing that the commission has been passing such a decision every year as a matter of routine. This year the decision was supported by 26 countries, compared with 30 countries last year. The decision has never been implemented to date, and officials in Jerusalem view it as a political declaration owing to the make-up of the commission, which includes many Arab and Muslim countries. Evyatar Manor, the Foreign Ministry's spokesman, said the decision is detached from reality, in light of the fact that the commission did not see fit to say even one word in favor of the peace process.

According to Manor, many commission members do not realize the changes that have occurred between Israel and its neighbors and the improvements in the territories. He said the time has come for the UN Human Rights Commission to stop this ritual. Manor added that in the wake of the UN Security Council decision on the deportees, the UN Human Rights Commission decided to drop plans to call for the imposition of sanctions on Israel. [passage omitted]

[A report by Amnon Barzilay on page 4 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 21 February adds: "Israel announced last night that it would not allow a UN investigator to operate in its territory."]

## Rabin Urged To Change Approach to Palestinians

*TA1902150593 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 19 Feb 93 pp 15, 16*

[Commentary by Hemi Shalev: "In the Fetters of Madrid"]

[Text] A month after Bill Clinton, a southern governor, became President of the United States, the cheering crowds fell silent and a sentiment of profound disappointment took hold of his American fans. The international community, which had initially feared him, has not yet reached a verdict. To date, Clinton has only one ardent admirer to his credit, a man who hoped that George Bush would prevail. We are naturally referring to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

"A Zionist federation" was the term used by a very senior American in describing the new administration's

agreement on the deportee issue. The Arabs—and especially the Palestinians—agreed in view of the vigorous U.S. support for Israel following the understanding between the two countries. At the Sunday cabinet meeting, Rabin lauded the new administration at length; it was evident that his contacts with the administration on the deportee affair had lifted most of his suspicions and fears of the new Washington team. Rabin may not find a common language with Clinton during his coming visit to Washington, but the President's preoccupation with his country's economic problems may in any event make Warren Christopher the No. 1 man in the foreign policy sphere. And Rabin's prospects for wooing Christopher seem to be quite good.

The united front presented during the deportation affair is an appropriate backdrop for Secretary Christopher's Middle East tour. Not only has the administration demonstrated its intention to continue according the Middle East peace process high priority; it has done so in a way that has made the Arabs doubt that their attempts to drive a wedge between Israel and the United States will be successful. Whether this had been devised by Washington policymakers or was a byproduct of the need to resolve the deportee dilemma, the new-old Israeli-U.S. closeness is good for the political process, and it will discourage the Arabs from making futile attempts to bypass the need for direct talks with Israel. One of the principles guiding the new State Department officials is the need to strip the Arabs of the illusion that the United States wants to or can "bring" Israel to the point of concessions without parallel concessions on their part.

The months remaining until the peace talks are resumed will show whether the Israeli-American solidarity is replaced by U.S. attempts to offset the negative impression they left in Arab capitals, or whether it is to become a standard approach that will accompany the peace process henceforth. Some Jerusalem sources believe that in general the Clinton administration has not yet found its bearings and that even the conclusion of the deportation affair was a tactical reaction to a pressing situation rather than an element of an overall Middle East strategy.

Ironically, Jerusalem feared that the Americans were exaggerating to a certain extent. The Americans' desperation over the Palestinians matched the gripes and grievances of Rabin and the other negotiators; the same is true with regard to the idealization of the option of a quick deal with the most respected figure in the Middle East, Hafiz al-Asad. Christopher will be subtly told in Jerusalem that there is no need to take every word from Israeli leaders so seriously. By neglecting the Palestinians, the Americans will strengthen the Palestinian rejectionist camp and draw them out of the negotiating circle for good.

The Americans seem to be basking in favorable reports from Damascus concerning the seriousness of al-Asad's intentions and the Syrian upper echelons' endorsement of his desire to recover the Golan through political avenues—to the extent of renouncing the historical enmity toward the Zionist entity. They intend to take vigorous action toward an Israeli-Syrian paper of principles. In Damascus, Christopher will try to found out to what degree al-Asad wants Israel to spell out its pledge to renounce all claim to sovereignty in the Golan Heights. In Jerusalem, he will try to find out to what extent Rabin is ready to agree to the detailed pledge demanded by the Syrian president.

The prime minister does not conceal his preference for interim arrangements that will leave the final decision on the future of the entire Golan Heights to his successors, if not to future generations. Rabin's entourage even toys with the illusion of being able to make progress toward these interim arrangements without explicit reference to the future of the entire Golan. But this opinion is not endorsed by other officials involved in the negotiations, including Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and chief negotiator with Syria, Itamar Rabinovich. "The price is a given," Peres said, and the evidence supports him. Rabin will be unable to extract any phased concessions from the Syrians without first defining—at least in very general terms—the final objective, namely, Israeli descent "from the Golan Heights" and not "on the Golan Heights."

This fundamental truth may dump the promised breakthrough with Syria "in 1993" into the same wastepaper basket as Rabin's promise of "an autonomy agreement with the Palestinians within nine months." The decision rests in Rabin's hands. For the time being, no one is willing to bet that the prime minister is prepared mentally, politically, or party-wise to declare Israel's readiness to withdraw from all of the Golan Heights.

The seven months that have passed since the establishment of the government have proved that political "maxims" can have very short shelf lives. Within a few short weeks, the "autonomy first" policy was supplanted by the almost exclusive focus on Syria, and as already proved elsewhere, "a second U-turn" is not impossible. Rabin needs the Palestinian channel not only for its own value and a means to absolve the Syrians of any blame for neglecting the Palestinian cause but also as a fallback if the negotiations with Syria hit a dead end.

Israel shares quite a bit of blame for the leadership quandary in which the Palestinians now find themselves. The Palestinians entered the peace process suffering from a double disadvantage. First, those negotiating on their behalf were not their chosen representatives, but the result of the U.S. decision to cave in to Yitzhaq Shamir's capricious demands, just to get the Madrid conference on the road. Second, they are being forced to negotiate a solution they do not want—interim accords—rather than discuss what really interests them: the permanent arrangement.

This double handicap has made Palestinian public support of the peace process almost impossible. Add to this the resultant loss of faith in the process following the

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportations, and you get a significant Israeli contribution to the sorry state of affairs that Rabin complains about so often. Rabin does not want to—and perhaps cannot—bring about a change in two of three parameters: the deportees and discussion now of the permanent arrangements. On the third parameter, Palestinian representation, the long break in the negotiations has given Israel an opportunity to contribute to promoting the talks by changing its approach. Before the negotiations resume, the "rules of the Madrid conference," at least with regard to Palestinian representation, should be given a final burial.

It is not out of place here to recall that it was originally Rabin's idea to include East Jerusalem Arabs in the Palestinian delegation, as far back as early 1990. Rabin supported the toppling of the national unity government over the Likud's refusal to incorporate East Jerusalem residents and deportees in the delegation. It was Rabin who claimed at the time that Yitzhaq Shamir's position proved to anyone who still doubted the fact that the Likud did not really want peace and was incapable of achieving it.

Rabin's strict adherence to the rules of representation that were set in Madrid was logical as long as there was still hope that progress could be made in the talks with the nonrepresentative delegation representing the Palestinians. That hope has now been nullified. Instead of complaining about their weakness, Israel should remove at least some of the shackles that have been binding them from the very beginning.

The Americans, in their eagerness to persuade the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table, did not invite Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi or Sa'ib 'Urayqat to Washington. Instead, they called Hanan 'Ashrawi. Secretary of State Christopher, who spoke with regional leaders last week, chose to speak with Faysal al-Husayni, and not with a member of the official delegation to the peace talks.

These two, al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi, bear the responsibility for convincing Palestinian public opinion that the political option is the right one, but they have to do this while excusing the fact that they themselves are denied the right to participate in the negotiations. Their inclusion in the Palestinian delegation would significantly boost the morale to the supporters of the peace process and exact only a very small political price. One can safely estimate that except for a few anguished wails from the extreme right wing, which are only to be expected, Israeli public opinion would easily take such a development in its stride. Perhaps the Israeli public does not want the PLO itself in the negotiating hall, but their representatives in the territories, al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi, have become household names by now.

Secretary of State Christopher can himself pave the way. When he visits Jerusalem next week, let him propose that Rabin hold a tripartite meeting of Christopher, Rabin, and the Palestinians' chief spokesman Faysal al-Hucayni. If such a meeting, which is important in itself, is accompanied by a declaration that the East Jerusalem notables will be permitted to participate in the talks, then the secretary of state, who has admitted his lack of familiarity with the region, could fly home with a satisfied grin on his face.

## Media Comments on King's Meeting With Christopher

### Talks Called 'Successful'

*JN2102123793 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Feb 93 pp 1, 17*

[Editorial: "Husayn-Christopher Talks Are an Element of Power for Arab Stand"]

[Text] The successful talks which His Majesty King Husayn held with U.S. Secretary of State Christopher in Amman yesterday provide an element of power for the Arab stand which is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy.

For the first time since the start of his tour of the region, Christopher announced his country's commitment to the peace process based on Resolutions 242 and 338. Christopher heard King Husayn confirm Jordan's commitment to Arab constants, noting its eagerness to resolve the deportees' issue and its insistence on achieving a just and comprehensive peace that addresses the Palestinian people's national rights to their land.

Jordan's eagerness to continue the peace process was evident when King Husayn asserted that the price of the failure of negotiations will be the total destruction of the entire region. However, as King Husayn asserts on all occasions, Jordan will not accept peace at any price.

What the visiting U.S. secretary heard from King Husayn was convincing and indisputable. The peace which Jordan seeks is one that will be accepted by future Arab generations; namely, a just peace that restores rights to everyone who claims them.

Jordan has welcomed the U.S. Administration's readiness to fully and effectively participate in the peace process. It also welcomed Christopher's readiness to continue his contacts with King Husayn in order to brief him on developments. This, in itself, is recognition of Jordan's effective role in the peace process. Christopher commended this pioneering Jordanian role that cares for the success of the negotiations. He also lauded King Husayn's role and sincere efforts to promote the peace process.

The Jordanian-U.S. talks led by King Husayn and Christopher were successful and fruitful. We hope that the U.S. secretary will hear in other Arab capitals he will visit the same talk he heard in Amman. It is worth noting that what Christopher saw in terms of radical changes in unleashing freedoms, political pluralism, democratic steps, and respect for human rights in Jordan helped bolster his belief in the importance of the Jordanian role in the region and its effectiveness in addressing the region's pressing issues, including the cause of peace.

Christopher said that the democratic changes and the serious respect for human rights that he had seen in Jordan were greater than expected. In any case, the Husayn-Christopher talks were successful and serve the peace process.

### Christopher 'Dividing' Arab Stance

*JN2302085093 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Feb 93 pp 1, 17*

[Editorial: "Christopher Blowing Up Arab Coordination"]

[Text] If Syria has indeed accepted to separate the question of the deportees and the resumption of the peace negotiations, as reported by U.S. Secretary of State Christopher, then Christopher has indeed blown up the very foundations of the fragile coordination between the Arab cordon states. Christopher has thus wasted laborious Arab efforts to achieve this coordination.

Rabin, supported by Christopher and his administration, succeeded in circumventing Resolution 799 on the question of the deportees. He also began to timetable the return of the deportees over extended phases, thus challenging Resolution 799 and disregarding the will of the international community.

It is noticeable that our Arab nation has heard Christopher, while touring Arab capitals, make statements reflecting double standards toward the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Christopher says, on the one hand, that hardline U.S. policy toward Iraq will continue, under the pretext that Iraq is not complying with the resolutions of international legitimacy. He, on the other hand, encourages Israel to challenge and brush aside Resolution 799. This happens while Iraq has complied with international resolutions and showed noticeable cooperation toward implementing them.

This fact has been acknowledged by international inspection teams which toured all over Iraq. Iraq has also given all necessary facilities for these teams to carry out their missions.

At any rate, we have to admit that we should reconsider all that we have heard about coordination between the Arab cordon states or between all Arab states. The only coordination that exists in the region is between the parties of the Cairo axis.

Israel has therefore persisted in challenging the Arab position on the question of the deportees and on other issues, including peace.

If Arab stands toward the question of the deportees are different, as Christopher reported, then Israel, supported by the United States, is likely to succeed in concluding a separate agreement with Syria and in splitting up the peace process, after weakening the Arab position in a manner that responds to Israel's expansionist ambitions, at the expense of Arab lands, waters, and sovereignty.

The U.S.-Israeli coalition's success in dividing the Arab position on the question of the deportees is a serious precedent that would eventually divide the peace process. This is especially true since there are Arab volunteers willing to serve U.S. policy and implement its programs at the expense of Arab rights, sovereignty, and dignity.

### Deportee Issue Stressed

*JN2002082193 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Feb 93 pp 1, 16*

[Editorial: "Christopher's Tour and the Constants of the Jordanian Stand"]

[Text] From the first hours of his arrival in Amman, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was acquainted with the true Jordanian stand on the peace process.

He listened to appropriate talk about Jordan's full concern for continuing the peace process based on Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle. He also listened to appropriate talk on the issue of the Palestinian deportees and the Israeli policy of terrorism and repression against Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories. However, it is noteworthy that in his statement in Amman, the visiting U.S. secretary did not refer, from near or far, to Resolutions 242 and 338 on which the peace process is based. He also did not refer to the issue of the Palestinian deportees which is an obstacle in the road to resuming negotiations.

If we take into consideration the U.S. emphasis on not demanding concessions from Israel in order to resume the negotiations, it becomes clear that Israel will continue adhering to its stringent and intransigent stands that blatantly defy the resolutions of international legitimacy and the Palestinian people's national rights. This is especially true since the U.S. Administration announced its unwillingness to exert pressures on Israel to remove the obstacles it is planting in the road of the peace process.

At any rate, we do not want to prejudge the U.S. stand. The visiting U.S. secretary is looking forward to meeting with His Majesty King Husayn, who will brief Christopher on the Jordanian view and stand on the peace process. This is especially so since Washington is well aware, from the beginning, of the reality of the Jordan's principled and constant stand and its concern over continuing the negotiations. However, Jordan is totally concerned with solving the issue of deportees since it is an obstacle in the road of the peace process.

It is important that, during his tour of the Arab capitals, Christopher listens to the same talk and is acquainted with a united Arab stand. Here, we want to emphasize that if Christopher does not seek to solve the issue of deportees by implementing UN Security Council Resolution 799, the confidence of the Arab cordon states in a U.S. role in the peace process based on Resolutions 242 and 338 will be shaken. This will raise the concern and fears of Palestinians and Arabs over Washington's noncommitment to its peace principles based on international legitimacy resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

### U.S. Role in Peace Process Viewed

*JN2102104993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Feb 93 pp 1, 24*

[Editorial: "Role of Full Partner Is a Positive U.S. Development"]

[Text] At the press conference held by King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, his majesty stressed the importance of the U.S. readiness to play the role of a full partner in the peace process. We in Jordan and in the entire Arab region regard this as a positive development in the U.S. stand—a stand which in the past was characterized by cautious waiting and based on the principle of noninterference in the bilateral negotiations.

Such a development in the U.S. stand toward the direct Arab- Israeli negotiations is a positive change in the prevailing U.S. concept toward the peace process, especially as it coincides with the start of the U.S. secretary's tour of the region. This tour practically and tangibly embodies Washington's commitment to the peace process and proves that Washington wants a resumption of the negotiations which have stumbled since the last days in office of former U.S. President George Bush.

While welcoming both the U.S. secretary's tour and the new administration's interest in reviving the stalled peace process, Jordan, however, did not fail to warn against the continued obstacles placed on the path of peace, headed by the Palestinian deportee issue and the escalating repression in the occupied territories represented by a terrible increase in the civilian victims who fall everyday in a manner unprecedented since the start of the peace process.

Moreover, if these obstacles which Israel has placed before peace are allowed to continue any longer, there will be an interruption in the peace process which may, in the future, push the parties back to square one; that is, where they were on the eve of the Madrid conference about 15 months ago.

While expressing our profound interest in the need to resume the peace process in an atmosphere that will permit the achievement of a breakthrough and the realization of the high hopes pinned on this process, we were pleased to see Mr. Warren Christopher express his happiness over Jordan's progress in the march of democracy and human rights and the extraordinary efforts led by His Majesty King Husayn in this regard. This is particularly so since such public U.S. recognition of our country's achievements in this field has shattered the long-prevailing U.S. and Western concept that a single democracy, namely Israel, exists in this region. Indeed, Israel's characteristics as a racist, despotic state that

disregards all principles of democracy and human rights, particularly in the occupied Arab Palestinian territories, are now being confirmed.

### 'Fair' U.S. Efforts in Talks Urged

*JN2102092693 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Feb 93 p 1*

[Editorial: "International Legitimacy Here and There!"]

[Text] As on previous occasions, His Majesty King Husayn was eager to assert yesterday that the peace which we are seeking and for which we are working is one which future generations can accept, live with, and defend. While time belongs to one generation, a place belongs to all generations. Therefore, we in Jordan know that every inch of the Arab land is the property of the entire nation, whether it is the current generation which is seeking peace or the future generations which can safeguard such a peace if they accept it or reject it if they consider it an enchroachment on their rights and dignity.

Jordan goes to the peace negotiations with one specific objective; namely, to regain every right on which there has been an enchroachment and also to protect every right from any enchroachment. Accordingly, negotiations can either yield acceptable results or lead to closed doors. The deportees' issue not only reflects the Israeli intentions toward peace but also confirms that Israel wants to deal with the Palestinian people as a community within the State of Israel so that any Palestinian can stay if Israel so wishes or leave if Israel declares him persona non grata. Such very extreme, racist intentions also view the Palestinian territories as being Israeli land rather than occupied territories from which withdrawal should take place.

As King Husayn affirmed yesterday, the only way to foil such racist Israeli intentions and force Israel to accept the internatinal legitimacy together with its resolutions and principles is by employing the U.S. material and moral capabilities to uphold the values and principles on which it was established, headed by the peoples' right to self-determination. Israel rejects this right, and only Washington can convince Israel to recognize it.

The aspired just peace will not only be the result of serious Arab-Israeli negotiations but also the result of fair U.S. efforts that emphasize the singleness of standards, stress the need for all parties to respect the international legitimacy, and reject any Israeli attempt to circumvent this legitimacy or project it in Iraq as a tiger with claws and teeth at a time when such legitimacy in occupied Palestine is a cowardly, lean sheep that lacks even the wool to protect it from severe cold!

### Crown Prince: Rabin 'Cunning' Over Expulsions

*PM2202121493 Paris LE FIGARO in French 17 Feb 93 p 2*

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan bin-Talal by Claude Lorieux; date, place not given]

[Text] (Lorieux) Some people are saying that the peace talks between Israel and Syria benefit from preferential treatment. Washington supposedly wants to conclude them before the rest. Does this prospect worry the Jordanians?

[Hasan] The Mideast visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in a few days' time will enable President Clinton to obtain up-to-date information on the regional situation. We hope that this assessment will not prompt the Democratic administration to favor bilateral negotiations between Israel and Syria to the detriment of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. Syria has always assured its Arab partners of its desire to work in tandem. However, some people in the United States think that it is necessary to act differently in order to curb Syria's power. They are considering a new form of relations, a new regional order.

[Lorieux] By expelling the 410 Palestinians, did Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin commit a monumental mistake, which is blocking the peace process, or was it a twofold masterstroke? The United States reaffirmed its solidarity with Israel, while the Arab capitals confirm that they will not abandon negotiations with Israel to appease the Palestinians.

[Hasan] I think that Rabin was cunning. He found a stratagem to appease both extremes of his coalition: the Liberals, by agreeing to talk (with the PLO—LE FIGARO editor's note) in Tunis, in some form or another; and the religious right, by adopting vigorous action against Hamas.

[Lorieux] The United States and the Gulf monarchies have punished Jordan for its stance during the Gulf war. Is this atonement over?

[Hasan] The United States lacks a comprehensive overview of the region. It does not deal with all the countries according to the same criteria—democratization, human rights, and so forth. We are still excluded. One example will prove this. We are the only country, including Israel, to have restructured its economy, as demanded by the Paris and London clubs. The compensations have failed to materialize. Thus the international community never seriously considered the case of the 350,000 Palestinian refugees that we received in 1991 following their expulsion from Kuwait, and the burden that this placed on Jordan.

[Lorieux] The democratic experiment that you are attempting doubtless does not settle matters...

[Hasan] Some people may consider it seditious. They wonder why Jordan is opening this Pandora's box. We have even been described as a kind of Tangiers of the Near East. We will not allow instability to prevail over our experience. We will not allow it to degenerate from democracy into populism.

[Lorieux] Is Saddam Husayn capable of observing the UN resolutions?

[Hasan] It is a matter of time. Iraq will eventually honor the UN resolutions. I also think that the offset for this goodwill must be the opening of some kind of dialogue with the international community, including the United States.

[Lorieux] Is Iran, as some say, the head of an Islamic conspiracy against such countries as Egypt and Algeria?

[Hasan] I think Iran has a problem. There is no single decisionmaking center in Tehran. This could lead to extremism. Moreover, poor administration and corruption are common to several countries of the region, broadly speaking. I do not think that we should immediately protest that there is a conspiracy. True, the Iranian Government still says that it supports exporting the revolution. It thus provides an argument for those who talk in terms of a conspiracy.

## Islamic Party Demands Implementation of 799

*JN2102085393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Feb 93 pp 1,5*

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Amman—The Islamic Action Front (IAF) Saturday demanded the immediate implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 and condemned attempts to circumvent this resolution, which calls for the repatriation of Palestinians expelled by the Israeli authorities two months ago.

IAF Secretary General Ishaq al-Farhan, addressing press conference held in Amman Saturday, said:

"The IAF also denounces the passive attitude of the Arab states with regard to current attempts to tamper with Resoultion 799 and the behind-the-scene moves to separate the expellee issue from the question of resuming the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations."

Dr. al-Farhan said the Arab countries should seek the immediate implementation of the resolution and ensure the return of the expelled Palestinians to their homeland.

A five-point plan by the president of the Security Council concerning Resolution 799 issued this month "is an attempt to abort the resolution and a flagrant violation of the international legitimacy," Dr. al-Farhan said.

"Indeed, circumventing the Security Council resolution is as a shameful retreat by the council and evidence of U.S. hegemony over the world organisation and a subjugation to Israel's arrogance," he noted.

Attacking what he termed a U.S.-Israeli deal, Dr. al-Farhan said Washington's backing of Israel's decision to return only 100 of the expellees was an attempt to "strip Resolution 799 of its content and pave the way" for U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region to call for the resumption of the peace process.

Accusing Israel of employing the peace negotiations as a means to stall for time, Dr. al-Farhan said that the call for a resumption of peace negotiations "coincides with an escalation of Israeli atrocities in the Gaza Strip where people are being shot and killed and Palestinian homes demolished in an unprecedented manner."

On other issues, Dr. al-Farhan voiced his party's determination to maintain dialogue with all other Jordanian political groups.

"We seek to cooperate on common denominators and will not defame personalities as we believe that the other parties also hold the national Arab and Islamic identity and place national interests above all other considerations," he said.

Dr. al-Farhan said Jordanian-Palestinian relations "are unique in their character."

"Palestine and Jordan have many things in common and they are struggling against the common Zionist enemy and the imperialist onslaught on the Arab Nation," he said.

"The IAF considers it impossible for anyone to separate the Jordanians from the Palestinians in view of their unique relationship, and therefore views the future relationship to take the form of a merger between the two sides following the liberation of Palestine," he said.

Dr. al-Farhan said the IAF will take part in the next elections in all governorates and "will seek to choose the most capable and competent candidates."

He said that the IAF was preparing for the elections, expected in November. "We are preparing a manifesto that will be distributed to the public at the time of the coming elections," Dr. al-Farhan said.

He said that there was not enough time to introduce any amendments to the Elections Law and the "present arrangement seems to be the best."

He said that the proposed amendment of "one-man-one-vote" was bound to "embroil the country in sectarianism and factionalism."

If any amendment is to be introduced, he said, the IAF calls for the assignment of parliamentary seats for each of the trade and professional unions and universities and that one quarter of the electorate should choose their candidates on the premise that the Kingdom represents a single constituency.

## Further Reportage on Christopher Visit to Beirut

### Meets President, Other Officials

*NC2202163993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Text] The Lebanese-U.S. meeting at the Lebanese Defense Ministry building in al-Yarzah is still in progress. From the Lebanese side, the meeting is attended by President Ilyas al-Hirawi; Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri; Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz; Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, Foreign Ministry secretary general; and Simon Karam, Lebanese ambassador in Washington. In addition to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the meeting is attended from the U.S. side by his assistant for Middle East affairs Edward Djerejian; Ryan Crocker, U.S. ambassador in Beirut; and Christopher's accompanying delegation.

Following the meeting, Christopher and Buwayz are scheduled to hold a joint news conference. The U.S. secretary of state then will leave for Israel via Cyprus.

### Al-Hirawi, Christopher Statements

*NC2202180693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Statements by President Ilyas al-Hirawi and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher following their talks at the Defense Ministry in al-Yarzah on 22 February—recorded; al- Hirawi speaks in Arabic, Christopher speaks in English]

[Text] [Al-Hirawi] I welcome His Excellency U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his delegation to Lebanon. This visit has paved the way for discussing the regional and international situation from every angle, particularly the peace process, which recently passed through a state of expectation and waiting. Lebanon, which has regained its unity and made basic progress in establishing security, rebuilding its institutions, and consolidating coexistence among all its spiritual families, looks forward to extending its national sovereignty and state authority over all its territory through the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 and the restoration of the south and western al-Biqa' under the legitimate rule of Lebanon.

We believe that implementing UN resolutions is the way to attain a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in this region, which has long suffered from international and regional conflicts. It is time that everyone bore responsibility for achieving stability based on justice and the restoration of lawful rights. Lebanon has proven that it is a necessity for stability and balance in this part of the world. It has returned to play its role after its long years of difficulty. While exerting its utmost efforts to facilitate the peace process through participation with its Arab brothers, Lebanon cannot but stress the need for commitment to the resolutions of international legality, particularly Resolution 799, because only its full implementation can give the peace process fresh momentum and promote the course of negotiations with seriousness and sincerity.

Lebanon, which is determined to begin the process of reconstruction, expects brothers and friends to assist it toward that end because true stability is not confined to security measures alone, but also is based on strong political, economic, and social foundations that can provide the people in this homeland with the chance to play their distinctive regional and international roles. The United States, as a superpower, can do much by playing its natural role as a pioneer of justice and peace.

[Christopher] Thank you, Mr. President. I am very happy to be here in Beirut tonight. As the president said, my visit has come at a time when the Lebanese people are finally beginning to achieve a national reconciliation and economic reconstruction that they have for long sought. The country has been plagued by confrontation and violence for much too long. Its greatest treasure, the resources of its people, have been wasted by years and years of civil war. I hope that period is now behind us.

My visit to Beirut today was the first by a secretary of state of the United States in a decade. It symbolizes our commitment toward the Lebanese Government, for its efforts to achieve independence and territorial integrity, for the dissolution of the armed militias, and for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces.

We continue to believe that the al-Ta'if agreement represents the best catalyst and best foundation on which to build [words indistinct]. The United States has always had the best of relations with Lebanon and the best of feelings for the people of Lebanon. We [word indistinct] work with others in the international community to solve Lebanon's [words indistinct]. My visit also reflects the United States' commitment to moving forward in the peace process, the Arab-Israeli negotiations. I have told the president that the United States is prepared to commit itself to be a full partner and help it to move this process forward as cosponsor of the process and now to take an active role. These negotiations carry great importance for Lebanon. As one of the parties involved in the negotiating process started in Madrid, Lebanon could benefit greatly, as could all the peoples in the region around here, from a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace.

I am glad that I heard today from the Lebanese leaders, the president, the prime minister, and the foreign minister that they all agree with the other countries in this region that I have spoken to on my trip so far—the four other Arab capitals—that there should be an early return to negotiations. The parties should return to the table as soon as possible.

Let me also say how pleased I was to be able come to Beirut and have discussions on special substantive issues which are at the base of the negotiations with the president, the prime minister, and the foreign minister.

Our consultations have given me a better sense of the road ahead. It won't be easy. But I think that we began a process here which will enable us to work effectively together in the future, provided that the parties are prepared to come back to negotiations and can do their part. The United States will do its part. Thank you very much.

### Christopher-Buwayz News Conference

*NC2202193193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1709 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[News conference by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with unidentified correspondents at the Defense Ministry in al-Yarzah on 22 February—recorded; all questions and answers are in English]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Secretary, other than the symbolism of the trip, what have you really accomplished [words indistinct]?

[Christopher] [Words indistinct] we had an hour together and we had an exchange that had substantive [word indistinct]. So, I would say that although the meeting was brief, it went well beyond symbolism. We began to get down to defining some of the hard issues. Beyond symbolism also I would say was the commitment of the Lebanese Government to resume negotiations as soon as possible, and that, I think, is very important. I am not finished with my trip around the region yet, but I think I have increasing optimism as I go around the region that the parties are all committed to the goal of resuming negotiations at an early time.

[Correspondent] Mr. Secretary, did you discuss with the president the resumption of [words indistinct] military aid to Lebanon by the United States and [words indistinct]?

[Christopher] Well, we discussed various kinds of aid, economic aid. We also discussed the possibility, or the prospect, that Lebanese military officers could engage in what we call [word indistinct] training, and we discussed the possibility of Lebanon [word indistinct] from our extra military stores.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, if the Lebanese Government, I mean if the Israeli Government [words indistinct], do you think that should be enough for the Palestinians to return to the peace talks, or do you think they would still insist on full and complete and immediate implementation of [Resolution] 799?

[Buwayz] We think that it is very dangerous to open the way for the interpretation of the UN decisions. But we think at the same time that the implementation of the 799 decision during an acceptable period of time without, with respect of the unity of this decision will help the peace negotiations and will create a positive atmosphere for the restarting of the peace process. [sentence as heard]

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Buwayz] I said that our decision to participate or not in the peace process is based on the assurances we have concerning this peace process. But we think at the same time that the full implementation of the 799 will help to create the positive atmosphere for the success of such negotiations.

[Correspondent] Has [words indistinct] assurances by the Americans?

[Buwayz] [Word indistinct] we have heard to Mr. Secretary of State and we heard about the concept of the view of the American Administration concerning the peace process, and we think that we have heard that the commitment of the Clinton administration is still strong enough to pursue this peace process. [sentence as heard]

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Christopher] Let me take you back to a little history with respect to that. When we came into office a month ago today, the peace process had in effect been put on hold because of Secretary Baker's departure from the State Department and also because of the issue related to deportees. We made [words indistinct] to talk with the Israelis, and as a result of those talks an arrangement was worked out under which a batch of 100 of the deportees are eligible for release immediately. All of them will be released in the course of this calendar year. I think that was a step forward and [words indistinct] going around the region is the basis for [words indistinct] 799 and that certainly that this issue does not pose an obstacle to the recommencement of the peace process.

[Correspondent] Sir, when you are going to treat Lebanon as the other countries in the region when you are going to the area? [passage indistinct]

[Christopher] I would always hope to treat Lebanon like the other countries. I certainly wouldn't want to discriminate against it. We went to some little trouble to get here tonight so that we would treat them as we did the others.

[Correspondent] Mr. Christopher, the deportees [words indistinct]. They have rejected the Israeli-American peace. They say they only want the full implementation of 799 and that the deal is aimed at avoiding sanctions on Israel and accuse the United States of double standards. What do you have to tell them so that they can return home? That's what they want, and they are armed with a UN resolution that ordered Israel to take them back. What are you going to do on that track?

[Correspondent] I would say that [words indistinct] earlier tonight there's a process under way under which they will be returned to Israel during the course of this calender year and also say that [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Do you see the United States removing restrictions on other Americans visiting Beirut and some of the sanctions that are on Lebanon?

[Christopher] In connection with that I think that the subject will be studied. We don't have [words indistinct] on the subject but we want to be certain we don't aggravate the problem by relaxing the travel restrictions—I say they're travel restrictions rather than sanctions—at too early a date. That matter will remain undecided and perhaps the fact that I have been able to come here tonight would be a favorable factor.

[Correspondent] Mr. Buwayz, [words indistinct] about the arrangement under the al-Ta'if Accord, when will Lebanon and Syria begin accepting that the withdrawal of Syrian forces from the al- Biqa' Valley and on. [sentence incomplete as heard] Mr. Christopher, could you tell [words indistinct] conversation with President al-Asad [words indistinct]?

[Buwayz] The Lebanese Government wants to implement fully its independence and sovereignty on all the Lebanese territory, and with saying that we are preparing very well for that and we think that once the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese security forces will be fully prepared to take the control of the whole territory, especially in the south, we think that this is not constituting any problem.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Christopher] I made the point earlier [words indistinct] the United States put forward here a program for the implementation of the al-Ta'if Accord, and in that connection we urge the parties to begin the redeployment of the forces [words indistinct] into the al-Biqa' Valley after an early stage. I do not want to go further into the diplomatic [words indistinct].

### Christopher Departs

*NC2202173593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1725 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has just departed aboard his helicopter from the Defense Ministry square in al-Yarzah.

### Al-Hariri Comments on Talks in Damascus

*NC2302134193 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi this morning and briefed him on the outcome of his talks in Damascus. Al-Hariri held talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd- al-Halim Khaddam on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's talks in Lebanon.

Prime Minister al-Hariri said that Lebanon's stand on the deportees issue is firm: Lebanon demands the implementation of that Security Council Resolution 799. He said his visit to Damascus was to coordinate stands on the future stages of the peace process and the bilateral negotiations in light of Christopher's visit.

Al-Hariri said the Syrian officials briefed him on the proposals they had offered to Christopher on the Palestinian deportees issue, but he declined to disclose the content to the press.

Al-Hariri said his Arab tour was intended to secure Lebanon's return to the Arab fold. He said: The Arab brothers' response to all the topics I suggested was positive and praiseworthy; the results will appear in the near future. The Arabs will support Lebanon in its efforts to secure implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 and back the Lebanese Government's efforts in its security, political, and economic decisions.

### Al-Hariri on Hizballah, Syrian Presence, Talks

*NC2002105793 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 19 Feb 93 pp 22-23*

[Interview with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri by Sana' al-Sa'id; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Al-Sa'id] If Israel implements Security Council Resolution 425 on southern Lebanon, will you be ready to develop your diplomatic relations with Israel?

[Al-Hariri] We are eager for peace and sincere in our peaceful endeavors. Had this not been the case, we would not have participated in the negotiations, which started in Madrid and are continuing in Washington. Our intentions are clear and honest. We joined the peace process to implement Security Council Resolution 425. If Israel withdraws from Lebanese territory, the situation will change a great deal. The ball is now in Israel's court, and Israel can change the situation completely if it implements the resolution.

[Al-Sa'id] Israel always says it has no territorial claims in Lebanon.

[Al-Hariri] It has to put this into practice and rush to implement 425. This resolution specifies how things can be handled, and it explicitly and unequivocally demands an immediate and unconditional Israeli withdrawal.

[Al-Sa'id] What about developing your relations with Israel?

[Al-Hariri] We are ready to reach an agreement first on the implementation of 425 and the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory. Promotion of our relations with Israel will be achieved through understanding and within comprehensive Arab agreements.

[Al-Sa'id] How true are reports that the United States offered [Israel's] pullout from Jazzin [in southern Lebanon] in return for Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon?

[Al-Hariri] This did not happen; the United States made no such offer.

[Al-Sa'id] To what extent has Hizballah become a political reality in Lebanon?

[Al-Hariri] Hizballah has a political structure. It contested the elections and some of its members made it to the Chamber of Deputies.

[Al-Sa'id] Has its participation in the democratic march somewhat lessened its traditional hard-line policy?

[Al-Hariri] It is too early to say; the elections are only four months old.

[Al-Sa'id] But how far can one go in saying that Hizballah is now a political party, not a militant organization?

[Al-Hariri] We cannot be decisive here. Hizballah combines both: On the one hand, it is trying to play a political role as a party; on the other, it is active in southern Lebanon, participating with citizens in resisting Israel.

[Al-Sa'id] How do you treat Hizballah?

[Al-Hariri] We deal with it as a political reality in Lebanon, a part of the current political reality in the country. Like any political group, it is being handled within the parliamentary and political game.

[Al-Sa'id] Israel uses Hizballah as an excuse for its continuous shelling of southern Lebanon.

[Al-Hariri] Hizballah's members are Lebanese. Resistance is not something isolated from the Lebanese state and people. The Lebanese resistance will continue to enjoy its legitimate right, and no one can argue with us about this. As long as Israel continues to occupy the south, we must expect resistance. I will not disarm the resistance as long as the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon continues.

[Al-Sa'id] Can it be said plainly that Israel must withdraw from Lebanon before the redeployment of the Syrian forces?

[Al-Hariri] These two issues should never be linked. The Syrian forces are in Lebanon at the request of the legitimate Lebanese state, whereas Israel is in Lebanon as an occupation force. The two cases can never be equated because the former is legitimate and the latter is not.

[Al-Sa'id] But Israel is using the Syrian presence as a pretext for staying in Lebanon. It says Syrian withdrawal would lead to Israeli withdrawal.

[Al-Hariri] Israel says many things, but this does not change the reality. The Syrian presence and the Israeli presence cannot be compared: While Syria supports Lebanon's sovereignty and independence, Israel represents the hateful occupier which harms our sovereignty. Israel must leave our territory immediately in implementation of Resolution 425.

[Al-Sa'id] So you are saying that Israel must pull out of Lebanon before the Syrian forces redeploy?

[Al-Hariri] Israel must withdraw from Lebanese territory.

[Al-Sa'id] Are you still waiting for the United States to meet its obligations in accordance with the al-Ta'if accord?

[Al-Hariri] The al-Ta'if accord does not talk about any U.S. obligations.

[Al-Sa'id] I mean moral obligations.

[Al-Hariri] The United States has a moral obligation to help implement Security Council Resolution 425, which demands Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese territory. We joined the peace negotiations on this basis, and we are waiting to hear what the new U.S. Administration can do in the next stage. We are awaiting the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region, which begins with a visit to Egypt tomorrow, to see what he has to offer and what his responses will be. Many things will depend on this, but all we hope for at the end of the day is the implementation of international resolutions. [passage omitted]

## Defense Minister Interviewed on Phalangists, Syrians

*PM2202153093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Feb 93 p 3*

[Interview with Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul by Muhammad Shuqayr and Ghalib al-Ashmar in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAYAH] What is the background to the Defense Ministry's decision concerning the current dispute in the Phalangist Party, especially as both sides thought it was in their favor?

[Dallul] The decision is in the interests of both sides and the people. The memorandum we issued can be used as a code of conduct which we could follow if a problem occurs inside any party. We issued it from our position as officials responsible for citizens' lives, whether they are affiliated to parties or not.

There is a struggle inside the Phalangist Party. And we had received information that a meeting involving hundreds of people would be held (by Phalangist oppositionists in a building in Kasrawan). Those who called for it should have obtained a license in accordance with the parties law. We had also received information that the other group (the Phalangist leadership) had decided to hold a meeting in the same place. So we took measures and ordered the Army to run patrols to maintain security, prevent people from carrying their personal firearms with them, and confiscate any transported arms.

Then we made contacts with all groups and requested them to cancel the meeting to avoid any clashes. We told them that if the meeting was not canceled and if any

clash occurred the Army would intervene, so they responded and the meeting was canceled. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Has the Council of Ministers actually turned into an establishment? And if so, did the disagreement between the president and the prime minister really reach the point reported?

[Dallul] Everything is relative; nothing is absolute. Compared with previous governments, this government is harmonious and united. Everyone remembers previous governments. There were ministers who did not attend any meeting. Some criticized and defied their government. And others attacked every action taken by the government.

Now we can see complete harmony and a minimum degree of solidarity inside the government—a degree of solidarity which did not exist in the past. That is how the situation was in Lebanon in the past, even before the war. The struggle among ministers existed and was dubbed "struggle of the roosters," especially among leaders of the regime, who always struggled against and attacked one another and exchanged accusations.

[AL-HAYAH] You disagreed with Minister Walid Junblatt some time ago.

[Dallul] We disagreed. Ministers are entitled to discuss matters inside the Council of Ministers, but this disagreement was settled within the council.

[AL-HAYAH] Over what did you disagree?

[Dallul] We disagreed and then agreed. Who said we are all the same? There are various and differing views among ourselves, but in the end we are agreed on the broad outlines. I am a defense minister and when I accepted this post I decided to support the military establishment, because I am convinced that anything that gets bigger than the homeland makes the homeland smaller, with the exception of the Army: the bigger the Army the bigger the homeland. This is because the Army is the security arm. And the stronger this arm is the more able it is to protect the homeland, institutions, and achievements.

[AL-HAYAH] You adopted a position toward the Army in the past. What has changed: you or the establishment?

[Dallul] The Army's conviction has changed. Everyone knows that the Army was a sword in the hand of a group from a certain sect aimed in a certain direction to hit the other groups. [passage omitted]

Today the Army has a national conviction which does not at all differ from the national conviction for which we fought. Reality has proved that the Army is not biased. It collected the weapons from both the eastern and western area [of Beirut] without any bias. And in its patriotism it (the Army) differentiates between enemy and friend. It says that Israel is the enemy because it is occupying its land. It also says that Syria is a friend, because it provides it with aid and support.

[AL-HAYAH] There is talk that the Army does not treat the suburbs and some of the areas in which Hizballah is deployed the way it treats Kasrawan, for example.

[Dallul] The Army is not biased toward anyone. It is carrying out its tasks in the suburbs, the eastern area, and the mountain. If security organs in the Army have sufficient information that any quarter is in possession of illegal arms, the Army will intervene and confiscate them. The Army has an extensive presence in the suburbs and is responsible for security there. Anyone coming from anywhere to the suburbs can see the Army's extensive presence with his own eyes. He can also see that there are no illegal arms. As for how we confiscate the arms, this concerns the security quarters. When we receive sufficient information about the existence of stores, we work to confiscate them. All groups know this and accept it. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] What about aid to the Army? You previously said that Syria alone supports the Army, and today we see ships unloading U.S.-made military motorized units for the Army. Does this mean that the U.S. position has changed?

[Dallul] There is a little change, but not a strong change. We purchased the weapons being unloaded from the U.S. Army's scraps in Germany.

[AL-HAYAH] At subsidized prices?

[Dallul] At subsidized prices, but the weapons are old. More than one quarter has begun talks with us, expressing a willingness to help the Army.

[AL-HAYAH] What quarters?

[Dallul] France and Italy.

[AL-HAYAH] What about the investigation into the the "Puma" helicopters case after the reports that a French mission has arrived in Beirut?

[Dallul] This team came to rehabilitate French weapons. Another team will come to discuss the helicopters' fate. And Italy is willing to increase training grants for the Army. And I have actually received today a message from Washington in which it is offering to provide training programs for the Army—which is happening for the first time in years.

As for the French helicopters, a technical committee was formed from the Army. It prepared an important report and met with the parliamentary investigating committee. Then we inspected the "Puma" helicopters. And we will soon have a report which we will place at the investigating committee's disposal. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] There is much talk that the Syrian Army's redeployment has begun without announcing it.

[Dallul] I wish the brothers who are worried about us and want redeployment would focus their efforts on the Israeli occupation. Where are these voices when it comes to the occupation? The Syrian presence in Lebanon is in response to a Lebanese request. The Syrian Army has offered blood and martyrs and contributed to reunifiying Lebanon and enabling it to launch the salvation march and achieve national accord. And between Lebanon and Syria there is a brotherhood and cooperation treaty which is much bigger than the military presence.

[AL-HAYAH] Before we entered east Sidon the Syrians persistently told us that they wanted to move out of some positions in Beirut. But we asked them to stay because we needed them. And now we sometimes seek help from them to enable us to deploy in some places. And sometimes we ask them to withdraw from other places. Their response has always been positive. We sometimes used to say, we can take over this one, but not that one.

[AL-HAYAH] We note that they have been in a state of withdrawal for some month now.

[Dallul] Whenever the Lebanese Army can take over positions, it does so. They (the Syrians) contact us repeatedly and ask us to take over positions occupied by them. And sometimes we contact them and ask them to evacuate certain positions in order for us to take over. There is no problem between us with regard to redeployment. We still need them urgently. This need has not ended. Our security, stability, and national accord is much more important than talk uttered in the dark. [passage omitted]

## Tehran Paper Interviews Hizballah's Nasrallah

*NC2202073893 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 13 Feb 93 p 12*

["Exclusive" interview with Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah by unidentified correspondent in Beirut on "the eve of the anniversary of the martyrdom of Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi"—date not given]

[Excerpts] [ETTELA'AT] Hizballah is a known organization; it requires no introduction, but could you please detail the organization's objectives for our readers. Why and when was Hizballah formed?

[Nasrallah] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Following the Israeli attack on Lebanon in 1982, the usurping Israeli forces occupied much of Lebanon's territory and took control of it. [passage omitted]

A danger threatened our country's and our nation's future; we were lawfully obliged to take up arms and resist this occupation of our homeland. So the resistance movement was initiated and assumed its current form. Similar resistance emerged and continued in the various parts occupied by Israel.

Our resistance movement is a response, an acceptance of a divine call vocalized by Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, who said we were bound to fight the usurping regime and to liberate our land from its occupation. The resistance operations began with small groups, which devout and pious people in Lebanon realized should unite under a unified organization and command. They were coordinated on two main axes and merged:

The first axis: Belief in the Velayat-e Faqih [rule by the Supreme Jurisconsult] and adherence to Imam Khomeyni's wise leadership.

The second axis: The need for an uprising and struggle against the Israeli enemy.

All the Islamic groups merged and Hizballah was formed.

[ETTELA'AT] The operations of Hizballah and Islamic resistance movements against the Zionist enemy are dazzling, but there are none of the suicide operations there were before. Why?

[Nasrallah] Our youths are ready to seek martyrdom by these operations, but the circumstances are different. The area under Israeli occupation was vast, but today the occupied area is narrow and congested, so the conditions for such operations do not exist.

Some months ago, one of our brothers fired on an Israeli group. When they went to arrest him, he detonated some incendiary material he was carrying and was martyred. The Israeli forces also died. So we must remember the state of the region.

[ETTELA'AT] Hizballah has embarked on political activities, such as participation in parliamentary elections. Why?

[Nasrallah] There are many reasons. We tried to assert our political and popular base in Lebanon, especially in light of various allegations being made. The Americans were professing that Hizballah is an armed movement of combatant youths, but no popular base.

Initially, we tried to prove to friends and foes alike that Hizballah is not a group of combatant youths, but a popular trend with a vast base in Lebanon. I believe we achieved this objective by our participation in the elections, so that all our friends and enemies now believe Hizballah has a vast popular base.

The other reason was that we had started a relentless battle against the occupation of our homeland, for which purpose we began the resistance. This military resistance requires political backing, which all circles should always support. Our entry to the ranks of parliamentary representatives gives us the opportunity to defend our resistance on the political plane. This has been achieved and consolidated in past months.

Today we have our representatives in parliament who speak about our sacrifices and selflessness and defend our resistance. This was not the case before, when no one defended our resistance. Another reason is that we are at a momentous political stage in Lebanon, which is in the throes of change. The problem is that the system is sectarian, a situation that Lebanon seeks to put behind it.

An important factor is our presence in parliament, which has given us the opportunity to strive to abolish this sectarian system. This would benefit all the people of Lebanon. We are more serious than others about this. If we had not been in parliament, we would have been unable to lobby effectively. We believe that abolishing this clannish political system will bring immense benefit and bounty to the Lebanese nation.

Another reason for our participation in the elections was that the government has immense resources at its disposal. In various districts, we have seen Muslims living in utter deprivation, lacking basic amenities and being treated with indifference by the government, especially in areas where the resistance is taking place. This is the case in the south of western al-Biqa', where the people do not have the minimum facilities for daily life.

Our presence among the parliamentary deputies will help to pressure the government so that we can seek facilities for these people. Our presence in parliament is for the sake of the oppressed.

These are the reasons for our presence in parliament.

[ETTELA'AT] Did Hizballah have to form a coalition with other groups to participate in the parliamentary elections?

[Nasrallah] This varies from district to district. In al-Biqa' we participated independently. We introduced eight candidates, all of whom succeeded. Elsewhere it was different. In the southern suburb of Beirut, we forged an interim coalition, that is, without issuing a joint list of candidates. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] How many representatives does Hizballah have in parliament?

[Nasrallah] There are eight Hizballah representatives in parliament, but Hizballah nominated and endorsed 12 other candidates. In al-Biqa', eight people were nominated from a total of 12, eight Shiites from Hizballah, two Sunnis, and two Christians.

[ETTELA'AT] Do Hizballah deputies have any specific plan or program to abolish the sectarian set-up or is it merely confined to a slogan or objective?

[Nasrallah] According to the Lebanese Constitution, a high-level national body will be formed from among all the sects and will formulate plans to abolish the sectarian system. We have a strong presence in this national body and will play our part to abolish this system.

From the legislative point of view, the bodies should start planning to eliminate the sectarian system and present it to parliamentary deputies to ratify. Before this, our deputies will consult all the Islamic groups, the Sunnis, and the Christians. They will contact the various groups and factions to create the appropriate circumstances and the right psychological and spiritual atmosphere so that there are no obstacles.

[ETTELA'AT] What do you see as parliament's most important duty right now? Can it perform this duty? How does Speaker Nabih Birri guide parliament? Are your wishes the same as parliament's?

[Nasrallah] Parliament is trying to forge its own personality and standards. Without doubt, the various groups of deputies in parliament are influenced by miscellaneous internal and external factors.

We strive to maintain regular contacts with the various groups and with the speaker so that parliament evolves its own direction, which should be to serve the resistance and the people of Lebanon and the oppressed.

We may succeed on certain fronts and not on others because of the distinctive factors that are present.

[ETTELA'AT] What do you think of the current government and President al-Hariri? What do you think of the Cabinet? Do you think that with al-Hariri in office, things could change in Lebanon?

[Nasrallah] The economic conditions have been very complex and difficult recently. We believe that various groups, trends, and individuals tried to harm Lebanon's economy. In the past two years, the rise in the dollar's value was amazing, reaching more than in the past 14 years when Lebanon was in the throes of civil war. It appeared that with the rise in the dollar's value and drop in the value of the Lebanese pound, the country was being pushed toward an economic impasse. It seemed that efforts were afoot to manipulate Lebanon's political condition on the basis of its economy so that by creating an economic crisis and increasing people's daily problems, the conditions were right for al-Hariri. The propaganda machine embarked on extensive publicity in favor of al-Hariri and an atmosphere was whipped up for him to take over power, to project him as the savior who could extricate Lebanon's economy from an impasse. Certain political and economic conditions were created so that he became president and formed his government. [passage omitted]

We strongly oppose the government's economic policy. I do not wish to talk about the president's political record or ties, because these are very clear. I will discuss his economic policy.

For example, he wants to rebuild Lebanon, but by borrowing when Lebanon does not have any resources. With such borrowing, Lebanon will eventually be unable to pay its debts. It will be forced to approach the World Bank and international organizations and become

beholden to those governments and organizations that have given it loans. We are against borrowing, but not absolutely. Borrowing is a policy to be eschewed, but it could have a role in Lebanon's economy, although this will leave the government and the country indebted and helpless.

We also oppose some other government policies. For example, the government wants to delegate services to certain companies affiliated with the president. In this way, he can interfere in most of the country's sensitive economic issues. This is rather objectionable and worth pondering.

As for the government's administrative policy, it is not tackling its fundamental duties in Lebanon. It is acting in such a way that most forces are being driven from Lebanon. The president has asked his own employees to enter government departments and work there as government employees. This means that he wants to gain complete control. In brief, we are following up the government's actions and we are against the government's stance.

[ETTELA'AT] What does the government think about Hizballah? What is the policy it has or will have?

[Nasrallah] The Lebanese Government has contacts with various groups. Hizballah is one such political jihad group with an extensive popular base. It is the banner of the people's resistance and represents the people's conscience. Hizballah is the voice of the oppressed and the government is striving to keep it out of the main economic and government organizations. For example, in certain regions where it wants to provide special services to the people, it uses non-Hizballah members for this purpose. Such negative instances do exist, but we cannot declare this publicly. We do have serious problems in this, but in other areas, such as security and military issues, we have no problems.

[ETTELA'AT] If the occupied areas in south Lebanon are liberated, what changes would there be in Hizballah's policies? Would Hizballah lose its identity and existence?

[Nasrallah] Of course our objective is that Israel should be driven from our territory. Israel wants to impose a peace accord in return for its withdrawal from our territory, an accord that resembles the 17 May accord signed with Amin al-Jumayyil. We reject this accord and demand that Israel withdraw unconditionally from Lebanese territory. The Lebanese Government does not seem inclined to reward Israel for occupying its territory.

In the circumstances, our policy is that all the Islamic territories should be liberated. This is our strategy. We do not officially recognize the existence or continuation of the Israeli Government. Israel has usurped the land of Palestine and we are responsible for eliminating this usurpation.

[ETTELA'AT] Are there groups other than Hizballah that carry out anti-Zionist operations?

[Nasrallah] There were numerous factions in Lebanon that were rightist, communist, or nationalist and carried out such operations, but in the past few years, such operations have basically become the monopoly of Hizballah. Unfortunately, the other groups seem to have shrugged their shoulders over this. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] What do you think about housing Palestinians in Lebanon? Is this a new scheme or preplanned one?

[Nasrallah] This issue is bandied about from time to time. We will remain opposed to this policy, which is tantamount to saying that the Palestinians will never return to their country and that the Palestinian issue has been terminated. This would mean a surrender to the concept of the land of Palestine remaining under the domination of and at the disposal of the Israeli enemy.

We will never accept this. We favor organizing the temporary stay of the Palestinians in Lebanon and bestowing social, urban, and political rights on them so that they can organize their lives appropriately while in Lebanon. This will enable them to contemplate their return to their homeland and its liberation from the hands of its usurpers.

[ETTELA'AT] Does a recent government proposal on disarmament also apply to Hizballah?

[Nasrallah] The weapons in Hizballah hands are the weapons of a resistance that is against the occupation of our territory and, so, it is not included in this decision.

[ETTELA'AT] The Armed Forces are stationed in the Beirut suburbs. What effect do they have on Hizballah operations?

[Nasrallah] The presence of these forces has no effect on Hizballah operations, which are carried out in the south and al-Biqa'. The Armed Forces are stationed only in nonresidential areas.

[ETTELA'AT] The Islamic groups oppose the compromising talks with Israel. Regardless of this opposition, what do you think will be the outcome of these talks for Lebanon and Palestine?

[Nasrallah] We believe these talks will be prolonged and will have no positive results. If any agreements are signed with Israel, these will be in Israel's interest, not that of Lebanon, Palestine, or the Islamic and Arab nations.

Doubtless, those who support the Israeli enemy's policy and who are lenient toward it will gain nothing but defeat and forfeit the rights of Muslims, the Lebanese and Palestinian people, and the Islamic nations.

The Islamic awakening has emerged in the realm of Islam, in the territories of Lebanon and Palestine, and

proliferates. Certain governments' and organizations' compromises with Israel do not bind other nations and they do not have to recognize such surrender.

How can you turn a blind eye to Muslim territories being placed at the disposal of Islam's enemies?

[ETTELA'AT] What do you think about the deportation of the Palestinians? Will their stay in Marj al-Zuhur affect Hizballah operations?

[Nasrallah] The Israeli enemy hatched the plan to exile this group long ago, because they have an important effect on the intifadah inside the occupied territories and Israel was merely awaiting its chance.

When an Israeli guard was abducted, Israel's main objective was to deal a major blow to the intifadah, because most of the deportees are doctors, university professors, and congregational imams of mosques with a very important role in the intifadah. With these harsh tactics, Israel has sought to curb the activities and movements of the strugglers within the occupied territories.

In light of this, we must combat this Israeli plot with all the resources at our disposal. The deportees' presence in this region, albeit temporary, has affected Hizballah operations. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] We are on the eve of the 15th year of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran. What effect has the revolution had on the Muslim nations?

[Nasrallah] The Islamic revolution awakened Muslims and endowed them with prestige, which is evident in nations' strong presence on the scene of jihad and struggle against the West-affiliated regimes. By its support of the oppressed nations against tyranny and oppression, Islamic Iran has affirmed its loyalty to the oppressed. Islamic Iran has put difficulties behind it as well as miscellaneous Western plots. It continues to forge ahead on the path of its struggle against the domination of the powers of world arrogance, using its policy of neither East nor West.

## Husayn al-Musawi Denies Hizballah in Turkey

*NC2202161493 Istanbul SABAH in Turkish 17 Feb 93 p 21*

["Text" of interview with Hizballah official Husayn al-Musawi by Mithat Bereket in Ba'labakk—date not given]

[Text] [Bereket] Can you explain the structure of Hizballah? Is it composed of a single party, or is it an umbrella organization which unites several other Islamic groups?

[Al-Musawi] Hizballah is a single party. It is not an umbrella organization which unites several other parties. Its objective is to spread the Islamic revolution, evict Israel from the territories it has occupied, and establish Islamic unity throughout the world. Our objectives may be similar to those of other Islamic groups, but we do not have ties with them.

[Bereket] The Hizballah in Turkey has been accused of murdering journalist Ugur Mumcu in that country. Do you have an organization or a branch in Turkey? Did Hizballah kill Ugur Mumcu?

[Al-Musawi] No, definitely not. We do not have a branch in Turkey. Furthermore, we do not support any military or political organization in that country. We did not kill Ugur Mumcu. Israel and the United States, which fear that our organization may become stronger, have used their influence over the newspapers through their secret service organizations to blame us for Mumcu's murder. If we wished to kill journalists just because they are opposed to us, then we would have begun doing so here in Lebanon. Many journalists hate us in Beirut. But we respect the views of others. We do not kill someone because of their views or their reports; that is, excluding Salman Rushdie. He is a different case because he has tried to humiliate our religion and prophet.

[Bereket] According to Islam, only God can take life. Is that not right? Plans have been made to translate Salman Rushdie's book into Turkish as well. Do you not think that is normal?

[al-Musawi] We do not kill someone just because he is of a different faith. Nevertheless, we cannot allow our religion and prophet to be humiliated. That has nothing to do with the concept of freedom. Yes, only God can take life, but he has assigned that task to us; that is, to the people. God commands us to punish those who wish to humiliate the Prophet Muhammad and our religion. As far as we are concerned, the translation and publication of Salman Rushdie's book in Turkey or in any other country is a crime.

## Nepalese UNIFIL Soldier Killed in South

*NC2202215893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Text] Yatar, Kafra, and Sribbin came under artillery fire this evening, killing a citizen named Musa Qadduh and wounding his sister. Israeli helicopters overflew the region.

A Lebanese source reported tonight that a soldier from the Nepalese contingent of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] was killed during the shelling of Yatar. A UNIFIL source pointed out that a position manned by the Nepalese battalion in Yatar was hit in circumstances that have not yet been clarified. The source declined to give any additional information.

### Al-Asad, al-Hirawi Discuss Christopher Visit

*JN2202161293 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1555 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Text] Damascus, 22 Feb (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call today from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Discussions dealt with the talks held with U.S. secretary of State Warren Christopher and issues of bilateral interest.

### Al-Hariri Telephones al-Asad

*JN2202200293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call yesterday from Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, during which he congratulated his excellency on the blessed month of Ramadan.

Discussions dealt with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's mission in the region.

### Khaddam, al-Hariri Discuss Christopher Tour

*NC2302070693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left for Damascus last night. [passage omitted] He met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam with whom he discussed U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's current tour of the region.

### Sources Report on Contents of Christopher Talks

*PM2302100093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Feb 93 p 3*

[Salwa al-Ustuwani report: "Syrian Reports U.S. Proposal To End Deportees' Issue; Damascus Informs Christopher of Its Commitment to Settlement Based on Land for Peace Principle"]

[Text] Damascus—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's talks in Damascus yesterday evening focused on the deportees issue and the peace negotiations.

Damascus attaches special importance to these talks, on the grounds that they are the first of their kind since the Democrats took office in Washington. The new U.S. Administration shows seriousness in its determination to stand resolutely by the peace issue in the Middle East and to include it among its foreign priorities.

Media services welcomed Christopher's visit. However, they pointed out that Christopher will find Arab doors open to real efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, but on the basis of the points to which former U.S. President George Bush adhered, that is, achieving a just and comprehensive settlement to the conflict in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land for peace principle. President Bush reinforced this commitment by a group of assurances to the Arab parties concerned that the solution would be comprehensive and that the Golan, Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip would be regarded as occupied territories to which Resolution 242 applies. For its part, Resolution 425 applies to southern Lebanon.

Authoritative Syrian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Syria emphasized to the U.S. official that it is still willing to help in any real efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, that it will study all the proposals Christopher has brought, and that Syria, which responded to former President George Bush's initiative, is committed to conforming to this line.

The sources added that Syria affirmed to Christopher its interest in the continuation of the peace process and the resumption of the talks. Syrian officials explained to the U.S. officials the effect of the deportees issue on the peace process and the UN and Security Council resolutions, saying that it is not possible for the peace talks to succeed before a solution is found for the deportees issue. This is in addition to other numerous obstacles which Israel has placed and is placing in the way of the peace process.

The authoritative sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Syria has received over the past days U.S. assurances regarding Washington's commitment to peace in the Middle East and its willingness to end the state of instability in the region and to help all parties to reach an understanding on the resumption of the peace process.

The U.S. Administration also informed Damascus that Christopher is carrying proposals aimed at ending the deportees' issue, and that the United States will exert pressure on Israel to end this issue in preparation for proposing ideas for the next peace talks.

The Syrian sources said that Damascus stressed during its talks with Christopher the need for the United States to adhere to what President George Bush adhered to, that is, a comprehensive solution and the need to apply international law to all.

Damascus cited the proposals submitted by Washington to reactivate the peace process, which Israel had rejected in the previous talks.

The sources said that Christopher will carry the ideas which he will hear from the Arab side without setting a date for the resumption of the talks, as this will be determined after the U.S. secretary's return to Washington.

## Media Comment on Christopher Tour, Peace Talks

### Commentary Stresses U.S. Role

*JN1902165293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Feb 93*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has confirmed the U.S. commitment to play the role of a full partner and to exert all possible efforts to advance the Middle East peace process. In Cairo, Christopher called on the concerned parties not to squander a rare opportunity for peace made available by the Washington talks. He is expected to have difficult talks during his current tour of the region.

Undoubtedly, choosing the Middle East as the arena for the new U.S. Administration's first diplomatic activities emphasizes President Clinton's interest in finding a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It also reflects the effect of the Middle East and its crisis on the overall global situation.

The Arab-Israeli conflict has been going on for decades without solutions or even a spark of hope for a resolution. All previous initiatives have failed due to Israel's intransigence and the continuing ambitions of Israeli rulers to realize more expansion at the Arabs' expense. Only the leadership of former President George Bush succeeded in making some progress by holding the Madrid conference and the Washington talks, but still the talks have had to deal with Israeli intransigence. The rulers in Tel Aviv want to swallow the occupied territories, dismember them, and force the Arabs to accept so-called solutions they have dubbed phased settlements. Such settlements are far from the honorable peace which current and future generations can accept. Therefore, these settlements cannot provide the basis for real stability in the region.

It is only natural, therefore, that the new U.S. Administration begins to study the previous stage of talks and reach conclusions that can help advance the peace process.

Arab demands can be summed up in their insistence on entrenching the power of international law, to apply it equally on all, and to give up the policy of double standards. These demands do not harm the United States, because they are based on international legitimacy and will spell the eventual entrenchment of international legitimacy and the implementation of its resolutions. Over the past several years, UN resolutions have denounced Israel's practices and rejected the acquisition of territory by force and the construction of settlements on such land. These resolutions have denounced attempts by the Tel Aviv rulers to change the features of these territories and to displace their original inhabitants. The UN resolutions have consistently stressed the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, foremost among them being the right to self-determination. The resolutions have urged Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories in return for peace, and to rescind the measures of annexation, Judaization, displacement, and deportation.

The Arabs are prepared to establish peace in the Middle East, provided that UN resolutions are applied and the occupied territories are restored to their rightful owners. They have launched several initiatives during the Washington talks, foremost being the Syrian proposals which have not been accepted by the Tel Aviv rulers despite the fact that these proposals are both objective and balanced. Hence, the problem of the United States, represented by Christopher's visit, is not with the Arabs but with Israel. The Arabs are committed to international law, and Israel is the only party that has been desecrating the sanctity of international law for more than 40 years, and has been violating UN principles and charters by refusing to heed the Security Council resolutions.

The Arabs are eager to achieve peace. They are eager to free the region from the cycle of war, and to divert funds allocated to defense to the realization of welfare and prosperity in their countries. But peace and occupation cannot coexist. The incessant talk of the rulers in Tel Aviv about compromise solutions contradicts the most fundamental principles of international laws and Security Council resolutions. The compromise solutions mean that the Arabs must cede a significant part of their territory to Israel and submit to the policy of extortion, threats, and repression. Such proposals do not lead to peace and only serve to entrench and fuel the conflict.

Hence, we say that the siding of the United States, which is an important and effective member of the international community and the United Nations, with international law, and employing the influence it has to impose respect for international law, as well as forcing Tel Aviv's rulers to heed the Security Council resolutions will lead to peace and the desired just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. This will enhance the standing of the United States and the United Nations, and will also save the Middle East from further calamity and tragedy.

## TISHRIN Wants U.S. Assurances

*JN2002073693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0540 GMT 20 Feb 93*

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Reassertion of U.S. Commitments," the newspaper TISHRIN discusses the U.S. secretary of state's tour and the situation in the region in light of the Israeli violations of international legitimacy and its resolutions. TISHRIN affirms that it is important for the current U.S. Administration to reassert the previous administration's commitments and assurances. This is especially true since the Rabin government behaves as if the current administration's decisions are made in Tel Aviv, not Washington. The paper says that the Rabin government determinedly rejects the implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions, which constitute the basis of the desired just and comprehensive settlement. This government also rejects withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinians' right to self-determination. Following in

the footsteps of the previous Shamir government, the Rabin government places obstacles and mines before the peace process .

TISHRIN adds that deporting hundreds of Palestinians was only aimed at impeding peace efforts. Israel's talk about so-called compromises and the Arabs' ceding of significant portions of their territories to Israel under the pretext of security is another exposed attempt to destroy the peace process.

TISHRIN continues: During the Washington talks, the Arabs tried in vain to activate the peace efforts. For this purpose, Syria has offered constructive, objective, and balanced proposals. However, those proposals fell on the Tel Aviv rulers' deaf ears. Those rulers have not put an end to their expansionist ambitions in Arab lands, and they are looking forward to Arab acceptance of Israel's swallowing of a significant portion of their territories, despite the fact that the UN Security Council resolutions and the principles of international law ban acts of settlement, annexation, Judaization, displacement, and deportation, killing of children and woman, and turning the occupied territories into a real battleground where the occupation troops pursue their hobby of killing the Arabs and displacing them from their homes.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The Arabs demand nothing from the United States but commitment to international law and adoption of UN resolutions as it tackles the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Arab position consolidates the prestige of the international community. Washington's commitment to the implementation of the principles of international law consolidates U.S. prestige and the U.S. role in the world, and saves its credibility, which has eroded over the past years as a result of Israel's defiance and reliance on U.S. influence.

## Previous Commitments Emphasized

*JN2002162793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 20 Feb 93*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Arabs responded to the stands of former U.S. President George Bush and participated in the Madrid conference and Washington talks, based on the clear principles of the peace process and the firm commitments to realizing a just and comprehensive settlement on all fronts of struggle, in line with the Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

At that time, the Arabs received a series of U.S. assurances and assertions that the targeted settlement covered the Golan, Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon, that international law would be applied, the policy of double standards would be abandoned, and that the United States would play an effective role in promoting the peace process and removing Israeli obstacles.

Based on this fact, the previous U.S. Administration strongly opposed the Israeli settlement policy and considered it a contravention of international law and counter to any serious approach to peace.

It is indeed important that while the new U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is holding talks with Middle East leaders for the first time, emphasis on previous commitments and an effective U.S. role must be made because the deportee issue has left a negative impression on the peace march and raised many questions about the U.S. position. The Arabs have expected President Clinton's administration to exercise real pressure on Israel to compel it to implement UN Security Council Resolution 799 and return the deportees, and not to reach a dubious agreement with it which the rulers in Tel Aviv exploit and boast that they can guarantee the new U.S. Administration will stand by them under all circumstances. Indeed, some of them said that U.S. decisions would be made in Israel and not in Washington.

In fact, the deportee issue is only one of the numerous obstacles and mines which Israel has placed on the path of the peace process. The Rabin government has escalated the violence in the occupied territory to a serious level, almost reaching the level of real war. The killing of children, youths, women, and elderly people has increased and the destruction of homes on top of their inhabitants has become the order of the day. Israeli bullets are being fired at Arab citizens without warning.

Clearly, the Rabin government is intentionally making the atmosphere tense and is violating human rights on a large scale. It is seriously violating the UN Charter with the aim of creating new conditions that could prevent the resumption of the Washington talks and prevent the new U.S. Administration from exerting serious efforts to resume these talks. At the same time, Rabin's government is relentlessly working to drag the U.S. Administration into adopting positions that are not commensurate with international law or with the previous administration's commitments, in a clear attempt to undermine the spirit of trust, the building of which was rendered possible under the former government of George Bush.

Therefore, it is important to have a clear U.S. stand in support of international law and Security Council resolutions, as well as the renunciation of double standards. The Arabs truly want peace, but they want an honorable peace that terminates the occupation of their territories and ends the oppression, crimes, and massacres being committed against the people in these territories.

Reports from Cairo say that the U.S. secretary of state will ask the Tel Aviv rulers to settle the deportee issue and exert pressure toward that end. Undoubtedly, Christopher is taking the right course. The greatness of the U.S. role will be commensurate with Washington's success in imposing respect for international law and the Security Council and its refraining from concluding

questionable deals with the Rabin government at the expense of international legitimacy and resolutions.

For their part and throughout a year of Washington talks, the Arabs have proved their readiness to realize a just and durable peace in the Middle East, provided that it is based on UN resolutions. It would have been possible to realize much on the path of peace had the rulers in Tel Aviv, both past and present, responded to these resolutions and adhered to the principles of the Madrid conference, and had they not placed expansion in Arab territory at the forefront of their goals.

It is certain that even if they are resumed, the stalled Washington talks will not achieve positive results without an effective U.S. role, committed to international law, without real pressure on Israel, and without openly declaring that nobody is above international law and legitimacy and that the UN Security Council resolutions must be implemented to the letter. Peace and oppression cannot be reconciled. Peace and occupation are poles apart. Nobody in the Arab region regards as peaceful any settlement that does not return the Golan, Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza, and southern Lebanon, or fails to secure the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

### Press Welcomes Remarks on Peace

*JN2102081193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 21 Feb 93*

[From the press review]

[Text] Dealing with the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region, the newspaper AL-BA'TH highlights his statements yesterday on arrival at Damascus airport. In his statements, the U.S. secretary of state said that the U.S. Administration is committed to working as a full partner in a bid to activate and advance the peace talks. He expressed the determination of President Clinton's administration to help the parties to the peace talks reach a peaceful just, comprehensive solution based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

AL-BA'TH views Christopher's statements as an extension of the previous administration's Middle East policies. AL-BA'TH highlights Christopher's assertion that Syria's consent to attend the Madrid conference was the basis upon which the conference was held. The paper says that all this indicates the Syrian and Arab desire for peace. On the other hand, we find that the Israeli stand depends on impeding peace through exercising a policy of suppression and oppression against our kinfolk in the occupied territories and regarding the deportees issue.

AL-BA'TH asks: In view of all these facts, will the U.S. position on the peace talks remain confined to its theoretical framework, or will it move to a practical framework?

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: If the U.S. position remains within its theoretical limits, the peace process will fail to advance and will achieve nothing to serve the aspired peace.

The newspaper TISHRIN also cites Warren Christopher's statements in which he declared that Washington is determined to reach a just, comprehensive solution based on Resolutions 242 and 338. He also declared that the United States will play its role to reactivate the peace process. TISHRIN notes that the Arabs have welcomed these U.S. pronouncements and that the Arab response to the U.S. efforts has opened the path to peace. For its part, Israel has created obstacles which have almost brought this path to a dead-end. TISHRIN says that Israel attempts to project a combination of contradictory stands. Within this framework, the Rabin government claims that it will not abandon peace. At the same time, however, it adheres to all that makes peace unattainable and pursues its policy of placing obstacles before a just, comprehensive peace.

TISHRIN believes that for the peace process to reach its goals successfully requires the removal of the Israeli obstacles, an absolute commitment to the resolutions of international legality, the termination of the Israeli occupation of all occupied Arab territories, and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on their soil. Before all that, peace requires that the repressive Israeli practices be halted.

TISHRIN affirms: Any talk about political credibility to activate and advance the Washington talks should primarily revolve around the bases and principles of a just, comprehensive peace.

### Effective U.S. Role Needed

*JN2202074393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper TISHRIN speaks about peace and Syria's concern for it. It says: During his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, President Hafiz al- Asad stressed Syria's concern for the peace process in accordance with the bases set for it, on which there is agreement. He also stressed the need to remove obstacles to this process, particularly the obstacle represented by the Palestinian deportees issue.

TISHRIN adds: Naturally, Syria has focused on the resolutions of international legitimacy. This is because Israel, under its previous and current governments, has tried throughout the past year of talks to avert the requirements of the peace process, particularly its withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and fulfilling the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

TISHRIN continues: Because Syria is concerned for the peace process and for extricating the Middle East from

the tunnel of wars, instability, and crises, it has always urged the U.S. Administration to play an active and effective role capable of placing the Washington talks on the sound path which leads to real progress. Definitely, Syria welcomes the Clinton administration's commitment to invigorate the peace process on the basis of UN Security Council resolutions, and to play a full partnership role.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: During his joint news conference with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Warren Christopher declared that efforts in the current phase will focus on the resumption and invigoration of the Washington talks. However, invigorating the talks requires an effective U.S. role pressing for the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions and forcing Israel to abide by the requirements of the peace process, instead of its current practice of placing mines before it. The United States is, without doubt, capable of enforcing respect for the laws and resolutions of international legitimacy. It is also capable of pushing the Washington talks out of the dark tunnel.

## Press on Country's Leading Role

*JN2302100193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[Press review]

[Text] In today's editorial, the newspaper AL-BA'TH discusses Syria's important role which consolidates the general Arab stand. The paper points to the great interest shown, inside and outside the Arab homeland, in the talks which U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held with President Hafiz al-Asad. AL-BA'TH says: This interest stems from Syria's political weight and its important and basic role in the peace process—a process for which Christopher came to the region.

AL-BA'TH adds: It was obvious from the outcome of the U.S. secretary's talks in Damascus that Syria emphasized a host of stands which will consolidate the Arab stance when the peace talks are resumed. Syria also affirmed its concern for the peace process in accordance with the set and agreed bases. It also stressed the need to remove the obstacles facing the peace process if it is to achieve its objectives. The issue of the deportees is one of these obstacles.

AL-BA'TH also points to other Israeli obstacles, including Israel's refusal to abide by the UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 338 and 242. Highlighting Christopher's assertion that Washington will play an effective role when the peace talks are resumed, the paper explains: No doubt, this is a fresh sign that the new U.S. Administration can be more serious than the former administrations in dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH stresses the need for coordination among the Arab parties in preparation for the peace talks, explaining that if there is coordination, the Arab stand will be stronger in these talks.

The newspaper TISHRIN discusses Damascus' pan-Arab stands which foiled the Zionist schemes so that Israel has placed itself in a great impasse. The paper says: Since the launching of the peace process in Madrid, Israel has been eager to place various obstacles in the path of peace. TISHRIN points out that the biggest trap recently set by the Israelis for both the Arabs and peace was the deportation by Tel Aviv's rulers of hundreds of Palestinians, thus creating the so-called deportees' issue. The paper highlights Damascus' vigilant stand that foiled this evil Zionist scheme. Preventing the deportees from crossing into Lebanon and, consequently, from spreading in the Arab homeland, was a surprise which was not considered in Tel Aviv's calculations. This surprise was a bargaining chip to pressure Israel, which, with the passage of time has turned into a terrible nightmare for the Israeli Government. At the same time, Damascus exerted extraordinary efforts to contain the numerous negative ramifications which the deportation decision created among the Arab ranks.

TISHRIN adds: Damascus also confronted the U.S.-Israeli deal, which aimed to circumvent Security Council Resolution 799 by partitioning it. Syria explained the risk which this approach poses to both the region and the international legitimacy. It also revealed with irrefutable evidence Israel's hostility to peace and its repeated endeavors to undermine all the components of a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Christopher noted Syria's concern for peace and its readiness to contribute to the promotion and success of the peace process.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: It is clear to everyone that Rabin will not proceed toward peace willingly, and that if he is given a free hand he will continue his efforts to undermine all peace initiatives. Therefore, if the international community, including the United States, really cares for peace and for removing the hotbed of tension in the region it will be required to curb the Israeli Government's hostile policies, prevent this government from undermining the peace process, and force it to abide by the international legitimacy. Only then will the path be open for a just and lasting peace which will change the face not only of this region, but the entire world.

## Afghanistan

### Cease-Fire Shattered by Offensive in Western Kabul

*BK2302125893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1249 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[Text] Kabul, Feb 23 (AFP)—The fragile ceasefire that brought seven days of relative calm to the Afghan capital was shattered early Tuesday with rival mojahedin factions exchanging rocket and mortar fire in the west of the city.

The sector containing a grain silo, which holds most of the city's reserves of flour, was the target of a joint offensive by Hezb-e Eslami, the faction loyal to dissident leader Golboddin Hekmatyar, and the pro-Shiite Wahdat militia, according to pro-government mojahedin.

They said the offensive lasted many hours, but was eventually repulsed.

General Qanooni, an ally of Defence Minister Ahmed Shah Mas'ud, said he did not know the extent of the fighting.

However he confirmed the government had declared a "unilateral ceasefire" to enable two Pakistani peace delegations in the capital to attempt a reconciliation, and as a gesture of respect for the Moslem holy month of Ramadan which began here Monday.

"We will respect the ceasefire as long as we are not attacked," Qanooni said.

The intermittent rocket and mortar fire continued Tuesday between the government forces on the Bagh-Bala hill overlooking the grain silo, and the Wahdat forces in the Shiite quarter of Koti Sanghi in the west of the city.

### Rockets Fired on Government Forces' Positions

*LD2202162293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Text] Golboddin's forces fired rockets last night at positions of the forces of the Islamic State. A responsible source at the Ministry of Defense told a correspondent for the military section of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that despite the fact that efforts continue to ensure a permanent cease-fire, Golboddin's forces launched a series of attacks last night from the east and the southwest directions against positions of the army of the Islamic State. In response the forces of the army of the Islamic State returned the fire of the enemy, which was forced to retreat. The source added that, despite the provocations and attacks of the forces of Golboddin, forces of the Islamic State have observed the end of the cleaning up operation and have refrained from strong reaction.

### Dostam Issues Statement Urging Conciliation

*LD2102020693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Feb 93*

[Text] Negogiations between peace delegations from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and government officials and the parties involved in the clashes in Afghanistan aimed at bringing the fighting to an end are continuing. According to our reporter, the temporary cease-fire called by the engaged parties is still holding and ceasefire violations have been quite rare.

Our reporter adds that over the past few days Defense Ministry forces have begun digging trenches and consolidating their defensive positions around Kabul airport, and have said in this connection that these steps are being taken in order to provide greater protection for the airport.

In the meantime, the people of Kabul are still anxious that the clashes may resume, and they are suffering from the cold, malnutrition, and illness. At the same time, General Rashid Dostam, the leader of the Islamic-Nationalist Movement of Northern Afghanistan, has issued a statement calling on the engaged parties to reach agreement and find a political solution. The statement says that armed clashes not only destroy the lives and property of innocent people, but also harm the interests fought for during 14 years of jihad, adding: The Islamic Nationalist Movement of Afghanistan is prepared to act as a mediator toward finding a policial solution acceptable to the engaged parties.

### Hekmatyar Denies Seeking To Capture Kabul

*BK2102132393 Hong Kong AFP in English 1300 GMT 21 Feb 93*

[By Herve Clerc]

[Text] Charasyab, Afghanistan, Feb 21 (AFP)—The mojahedin leader whose rockets have devastated the Afghan capital Kabul says his objective was not to capture the city, but to bring about free elections in the country.

Golboddin Hekmatyar, whose Hezb-e Eslami faction has advanced to within 2.5 kilometres (1.5 miles) of the presidential palace, also denied seeking to spread Islamic fundamentalism in Central Asia.

In his stronghold here, 25 kilometres (16 miles) south of Kabul, Hekmatyar stressed the current week-long lull in fighting there was not "a formal ceasefire" but a temporary truce to enable two Pakistani peace delegations, in the capital for more than a week, to attempt a reconciliation.

Artillery fire could be heard overnight Saturday for half an hour in Kabul and, as on previous nights, intermittent machine-gun fire broke the silence, demonstrating the fragile nature of the truce.

Set among the ochre and brown hills of Charasyab, Hekmatyar's headquarters are protected by anti-aircraft guns. A Russian Mi-24 helicopter prepared for quick takeoff is stationed near the building, a former military academy, where Hekmatyar receives visitors.

The 44-year-old Hekmatyar, often considered the most radical and pitiless of Afghanistan's Islamic leaders, has turned now to the politics of reconciliation, he says.

While he reiterated that his conditions for a lasting ceasefire have not changed—the ousting of President Borhanoddin Rabbani, the setting up of an interim government "acceptable to all" and general elections before autumn—he did hold out the possibility of compromise.

He also said he was ready to share power with his arch rival, Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

"I can accept any leader provided he is appointed through negotiations," Hekmatyar said, adding that despite its advances on the capital his faction has no designs on it.

"We don't want to capture Kabul," Hekmatyar said. "We are against fighting in Kabul. We are in a defensive position. This war was imposed by the other side."

Accused of giving military support to Islamic groups in Tajikistan, he said he was opposed to any interference in the internal affairs of other countries. "We have enough problems of our own without meddling in those of others," he said.

But Hekmatyar does remain hostile to the United States, which supported the mojahedin factions against the former Soviet-installed regime in Afghanistan. He denounced Washington as "the leading force in the international conspiracy against Islam in Tajikistan" and alleged that U.S. commandos recently landed in Pakistan to assassinate him.

"We are used to it," he said calmly. "We have no fear."

With his black turban and long black beard, and a soft-spoken, courteous manner, Hekmatyar is oddly reminiscent of the sufis, spiritual leaders who in an earlier time made Afghanistan a land of great religious learning.

But the rocket launchers surrounding his headquarters remind a visitor of the real source of his power.

### * Daily Reports Clashes, Claims Russians Present

*93P50053A*

[Editorial Report] London AL-HAYAH in Arabic of 6 February 1993 on page 1 carries a report from Peshawar, Pakistan, and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, citing "independent Afghan sources" that the Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami controlled positions a mere 4 km from the presidential palace in Kabul. Sources in Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami told AL-HAYAH that the previous day's clashes were at Qal'eh-ye Sorkh and east of the capital. "Independent" sources said that one of the commanders in Pir Ahmad Gilani's group, the National Islamic Group, attacked Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's forces, indicating an expansion of the scope of the opposition front. Sources in the Hezb-e Wahdat forces stated that they had taken over the Russian Embassy compound and captured 45 Defense Ministry troops in the "Intelligence-5" headquarters near the president's Dar ol-Aman Palace. However, Hajj Bashir, the official Ettihad-e Eslami spokesman, told AL-HAYAH that Kabul was peaceful yesterday and denied the Hezb-e Wahdat statement about capturing the Russian Embassy compound. "Independent Afghan sources" warned that the Hezb-e Wahdat was about to take important areas in Kabul, especially in view of its advances in the region of Pol-e Artal near the presidential palace. They added that "if the Hezb-e Wahdat is able to advance further, it will be able to conclude a deal with the Uzbek militias under General Abdol-Rashid Dostam, which are remaining neutral in these battles." According to observers, they are "natural allies of the Hezb-e Wahdat."

AL-HAYAH of 7 February 1993 on page 1 carries a report from Jeddah, Peshawar, and Quetta, Pakistan, that quotes Jam'iyat-e Eslami sources in Jeddah as saying that fierce battles had broken out on 6 February between government and opposition forces in southwest Kabul, "specifically around the command headquarters of Engineer Hekmatyar." They stated that "the area suffered aerial bombardment and concentrated shelling by the government forces, which are attempting to avoid heavy losses of manpower. For this reason, they are concentrating on using aircraft and heavy weapons to destroy specific positions with the Hezb-e Eslami's rockets and ground antiaircraft gun fire before their troops' search sweeps." The sources voiced pain over the continued civil war, accusing Hekmatyar of enflaming the situation. Hezb-e Wahdat sources claimed that its forces took over the women's hospital near the Pamper Cinema, and added that they had taken Jada-e Maywand, which is located south of the capital.

AL-HAYAH on 9 February 1993 on page 1 reports that Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani telephoned his special envoy to Saudi Arabia, Nurollah Ammad, to make sure of the results of his contacts with Saudi officials. The representative of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami in Saudi Arabia said that Rabbani had affirmed to Ammad that he would remain in the capital "because he thinks that his life is no more precious than the lives of the hundreds of women, children, and old people who are being victimized by the battles." AL-HAYAH said that Rabbani indicated during his call that Hekmatyar was well fortified in Chahar Asiab, "and it is an area in which the (former) Russian occupiers built bases underground and inside of mountains. They dug several tunnels to which they could resort. After the withdrawal of the Russian forces, these bases passed to the Communist regime's intelligence, which gave them to Hekmatyar,

and he made them his headquarters." Rabbani added that Russian officers have been seen recently "coming out of these hiding places, firing rockets toward the capital, and then returning to their secret hideouts."

### * Hezb-e Eslami Spokesman Denies Drug Dealing

*93P50060A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Feb 93 pp 1, 4*

[Report by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan from Peshawar and the AL-HAYAH bureau in London]

[Excerpts] The official spokesman for the Afghan Hezb-e Eslami (led by radical opposition leader Golboddin Hekmatyar) in a discussion yesterday with AL-HAYAH denied Western intelligence reports that linked the landing of U.S. commandos near Peshawar with suspicions that Hekmatyar is involved in facilitating the cultivation and trafficking of drugs in the areas under his control.

The spokesman, Nawab Salim, said, "U.S. agents (in Afghanistan) are the ones that are trafficking in and cultivating narcotics. Why does Washington not control its agents?" A Western intelligence report indicated that the mission of the 65 commandos who landed at the Cherat camp (for Pakistani special units) near Peshawar Wednesday is to seize the leaders of the Afghan drug gangs.

News of this landing caused anxiety among the Pakistani Islamic parties, which warned against kidnapping Hekmatyar personally and killing him or bringing him to trial. [passage omitted]

In addition, the spokesman for the Hezb-e Eslami affirmed in his talk with AL-HAYAH that the party "prevents its members from smoking cigarettes. How can it permit the handling or cultivation of narcotics?" He indicated that drugs "were forbidden by Islamic law before the appearance of America or some Western organizations. How can these countries impose their conditions on us in this matter and accuse us of this at a time when we are bound by the principles and fundamentals of our true religion?" He said that it is up to the Americans to prevent drugs and drunkenness from existing in their own territory instead of practicing a "cowboy" policy in other areas of the world.

While Salim refused to name the officials whom he accused of encouraging the drug trade, other Afghan sources said that it is widely known that commanders of Afghan groups—one of whom met his death in murky circumstances after the Soviet pullout in 1989—are responsible for vast areas in which narcotics are cultivated in southwestern Afghanistan. He added that relatives of [the dead man] had inherited the trade from him, while other armed tribes control certain land in which narcotics are cultivated.

## India

### President Outlines Government Policy to Parliament

*BK2202104393 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 0616 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Address to a joint session of Parliament by President Shankar Dayal Sharma in Hindi in New Delhi; English version read by Vice President Narayanan—live]

[Text] Honorable members: I welcome you to this session of parliament. The most important task before us today is to restore confidence and communal amity which have been shaken by the tragic events of the 6th of December last year and what followed thereafter. The basic premise of secularism and the rule of law has been threatened. Political parties, intellectuals, opinion leaders, and others must all strive to counter the communal propaganda that has been let loose so that the country can proceed with the task of building the nation and reasserting our fundamental values. We have to further strengthen the harmony that has always characterized our society.

The central issue of Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] dispute has been referred to the Supreme Court under Article 143 of the Constitution. Government has also acquired about 68 acres of land in the complex and is in the process of setting up two separate trusts for managing the construction of Ram temple and mosque. Government's endeavor will be to ensure that the construction is taken up in consultation and cooperation with the two communities concerned and with the active participation of eminent and responsible leaders of the two communities. Government seeks the support and cooperation of all sections of the people in this important endeavor.

In Jammu and Kashmir, there has been no let up in the involvement of forces from across the border in training, arming and providing logistic support to the terrorists. Our security forces, despite having to work under extremely difficult conditions, have been trying to meet this challenge. Government is acutely conscious of the hardships and privations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir arising from the intimidatory acts of terrorists, frequent calls for bundhs [strikes] and disruption of economic and commercial activity in the state. There have also been some cases of excesses by security forces operating in the state. Prompt action has been taken in such cases to punish those found guilty. As a first step to redress the grievances of the people and reactivate the political process, a state-level multiparty advisory council has been set up to act as a bridge between the administration and the people. Efforts are also being made to set up district-level committees to carry the process forward. A parliamentary delegation visited the valley in October 1992. Discussions have been held by

the union home minister with leaders of political parties to create conditions which would enable democratic processes to be restored.

After the democratically elected government assumed office in Punjab, there has been a dramatic improvement in the life of the people of the state. These brave people deserve all credit for sending a clear message against the forces of separatism and disruption. Elections to municipalities were held after a gap of about 13 years and to panchayats [rural bodies] after a gap of about nine years. These have evoked massive and enthusiastic response. A renewed thrust is being given to the socioeconomic development of the state. The center remains committed to finding a just and amicable solution to all the outstanding issues in Punjab and will provide all assistance to the state government in its pursuit of anti-terrorist measures.

The overall situation in the northeastern region has been under control. Steps have been taken to accelerate the pace of infrastructure development in the region, particularly in respect of rail, road, and telecommunication. State governments and the Northeastern Council have initiated new programs for development of agriculture, horticulture, and fisheries. The central government is setting up an agricultural university and an institute of technology. In all these programs of development, people's participation is being emphasized. Elections have been held recently in Nagaland and Meghalaya.

The implementation of the eighth plan, launched on April 1st last year, is well underway. The total investment has been substantially stepped up to 798,000 crores at 1991-92 prices. Out of this, the public sector outlay will be rupees 434,100 crores. We are moving toward (?indicative) planning which is in tune with the changes that have been initiated in our economic policy.

The year 1992-93 witnessed a further consolidation of the economic stabilization program and the process of structural reforms. The growth in GDP, which was 1.2 percent in 1992, is expected to be four percent in 1992-93. This growth is significant when viewed against the setbacks of the past year, the comparative slow-down in the industrial sector and problems in the financial sector. During 1992-93, industrial production recorded an increase of 3.8 percent for the period April to October 1992, as compared to a decline of about 1 percent during the same period in the previous year. Similarly, exports recorded a growth of around 3.4 percent in dollar terms during April-December 1992, compared to a decline of 3.7 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year.

The recent agreement with Russia on the repayment of debt will help to revive our exports to traditional markets in Russia. We have comfortable foreign exchange reserve of $5 billion.

One of the prime objectives of government, namely control of inflation, has been achieved as the annual rate of inflation which peaked at 16.7 percent in August 1991 was brought down to 7 percent in the last week of January 1993.

Major changes have been made recently to liberalize foreign exchange control. The new economic policy has also led to major liberalization in our procedures for foreign direct investment. A total equity investment approved from August 1991 to the end of January 1993 is over $2.3 billion which will account for projects of a value of about rupees 35,000 crores. A number of other proposals are also in the pipeline with the foreign equity component of about $250 million generating projects with a total value of rupees 7,500 crores. Most of these investments are in priority sectors—24 percent in energy, 26 percent in petroleum, about 8 percent in chemicals, about 12 percent in food processing industry, and 8 percent in electrical industry. The remaining 22 percent includes transportation, textiles, telecommunications and industrial machinery. Nonpriority consumer items account for a little less than 4 percent.

The national renewal fund was set up and operationalized so that the industrial workers are not hurt in the process of restructuring. The first major program being taken up is a turnaround of the National Textile Corporation in which the National Renewal Fund will provide funds for working capital, retraining, and rehabilitation measures and voluntary retirement scheme. The scheme has been making steady progress so far and about 20,000 workers have been covered. Government has held consultations with labor representatives on general issues concerning the reform process as well as (?sector) specific matters. A meeting of the state labor ministers and the Indian Labor Conference has also gone into the manner of revamping our industrial relation laws. Government attaches high priority to these changes as they are expected to lead to increased production and productivity, high wage earnings, and harmonious industrial relations.

The small-scale sector is of very great importance in our industrial economy because of its potential for high levels of employment generation and the dispersal of industrial activity across the country. In 1992-93, the employment in the sector was estimated at 129,000 persons and total production was expected to be at rupees 166,400 crores, representing a rate of growth of 4 percent over the previous year. In view of the slow-down in the industrial sector, this was creditable. With revival in industry as a whole, the performance of the small-scale sector is expected to improve very significantly in 1993-94. An important initiative to ensure prompt payment by other industries for the dues of the small-scale units has been taken. Payments are now required to be made within 30 days of acceptance of goods or rendering of service.

In the world that is emerging, the economic strength of a nation will depend on its ability to compete in the international market place on the basis of quality, reliability, and price. It should be our endeavor to achieve a

sustained growth rate of exports of 15 to 20 percent per annum in dollar terms within the next few years. It would be a basic plank of government policy to encourage exports in every possible way and to remove all impediments or constraints that affect their growth.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the Indian economy and its people. As it is still essentially dependent upon rainfalls, there was a drop in food grains production in 1991-92 by about 9 million tons and was estimated at 167 million tons. This brought the public distribution system and consumer prices under pressure. However, the timely decision to import a limited quantity of wheat has had a positive impact on its price behavior. The increase in prices between May and December 1992 was restricted to 3.6 percent compared to a rise of 35 percent during the corresponding period in the previous year.

I am happy to say that in the current year the monsoon has been good, excepting in parts of Bihar and in parts of a few other states. The total kharif [autumn season] food grains production is estimated at 100 millions against the last year's 91.42 million tons. Procurement of kharif rice has been proceeding satisfactorily and has already crossed 9 million tons. The (?prospect of) rabi [spring season] food production is good and it is expected to be around 76 to 77 million tons. Kharif oilseed production has been higher by about 16 lakh tons. Our sugar production was 133 lakh tons in the sugar year ending October 1992, thus making India the world's largest sugar producer. All this has had a salutary effect on prices as well as availability. The country's achievements in the agricultural sector bear eloquent testimony to the hard work and enterprise of our farmers.

Our plans for agriculture go beyond mere self-sufficiency. We see it as an area with great potential capable of yielding much higher returns to farmers and rural labor. To stimulate growth in the sector, the minimum support prices for paddy were increased by rupees 40 per quintal in August 1992 and for wheat for the marketing season starting 1 April 1993 by rupees 55. It has been decided to pay a bonus of rupees 25 per quintal for wheat. The statutory minimum price for sugarcane was raised by rupees three per quintal to rupees 26 for the sugar year 1991-92. This has been further raised to rupees 31 per quintal for the sugar year 1992-93. The decontrol of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers has no doubt led to increase in their prices in the short term. To cushion the impact of this increase, government provided rupees 340 crores to the state governments and union territories as a one-time support. The price of urea was decreased by 10 percent. Government has also announced a rupees 500-crore package to develop agricultural infrastructure meant for the small and marginal farmers. These measures and the increased attention that dry farming would get in the coming year will serve the interests of the farmers in a big way.

One of the important programs being implemented by the government to protect the interests of the vulnerable sections of the society is a revamped public distribution system. Government has decided to set apart and distribute an additional 20 lakh tons of food grains every year in the 1,700 blocks in the tribal, drought-prone, desert, and designated hill areas of the country identified under the scheme. Since the inception of the revamped public distribution scheme, 10,121 new fair price shops have been opened in these blocks and 26 lakh additional ration cards have been issued. During the current year, work relating to the setting up of district-level consumer redressal agencies was carried forward and the entire country was covered by district forums except the state of Meghalaya. Four hundred and forty-seven district forums are presently functioning in the country.

The thrust for the eighth plan in the field of rural development is to integrate the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna [employment scheme] and the Integrated Rural Development Program with other ongoing programs for strengthening rural economic infrastructure, so as to create durable and productive economic assets which in turn generate further employment.

The outlay for rural development for the eighth five-year plan has been increased to rupees 30,000 crores as compared to an allocation of rupees 6,179 crores and an actual expenditure rupees 10,956 crores in the seventh plan. The Constitution 72d Amendment Bill 1991 which has been passed by both the houses of parliament in the last session, when enacted, will effectively strengthen Panchayati Raj [village-level administration] institutions by ensuring regular elections and sufficient devolution of powers and financial resources. Provision for reservation of seats in the panchayats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes has been made in proportion to their population in the village. Out of the seats for which direct elections will be held, one-third are reserved for women. Further more, out of the seats reserved for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, one-third will be earmarked for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe women. The law has provisions for enabling reservations to be made for the office of chairperson also. The state legislatures, if they so desire, can make reservations in favor of backward classes. To strengthen municipal government and to ensure that municipalities perform as effective units of local self-government, parliament has passed the Constitution 73d Amendment Bill in 1991. Provisions for reservations for members of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, women, and backward classes have been made as in the case of panchayats.

During the year 1992-93, government gave priority to disease control program. These include control of AIDS, eradication of leprosy by the year 2000 AD, malaria control in tribal areas, and short-term chemotherapy for tuberculosis in backward areas. An intensive program is proposed to be taken up in seven states for dealing with cataract-induced blindness. According to the 1991 census, the average annual exponential growth rate of population, which had reached a level of 2.22 percent in the 1971-81 decade, has come down to 2.14 percent. The birth rate has come down to 29.3 per 1,000 population in 1991 from a level of 30.2 in 1990. However, the present

national growth rate of 1.95 percent is still very high and stabilization of population will therefore be an overriding national priority. A massive program has been launched for the liberation and rehabilitation of 4 lakh safai karamcharis [sanitation workers] during the next five years. A statutory national commission for safai karamcharis is being constituted to be in charge of this program. The authorized share capital of the National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation has been raised from rupees 75 crores to rupees 125 crores. The corporation will continue to assist in the flow of funds for income-generating schemes for the benefit of scheduled castes and scheduled tribe entrepreneurs. So far, the corporation has sanctioned 312 schemes of a value of rupees 2,077.63 crores, toward which it has disbursed rupees 54.05 crores. The corporation is also organizing training program in skill upgradation for employment and self-employment.

To raise the levels of literacy and education among the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, it is proposed to start residential schools in 48 districts. As a tribute to the memory of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar during his centenary celebration year, a Dr. Ambedkar Foundation was set up to administer schemes like Dr. Ambedkar national awards, Dr. Ambedkar National Library, Dr. Ambedkar chairs in universities, and Dr. Ambedkar overseas fellowships. In addition, the government has also taken up the translation and publication of the complete works and speeches of Dr. Ambedkar. A full-length feature film on Dr. Ambedkar will also be produced. The National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation with an authorized share capital of rupees 200 crores will provide an additional channel of finance and assist in upgrading the technical and entrepreneurial skills of the socially and educationally backward classes. The National Commission for Minorities Act 1992 has been passed by parliament, providing statutory status to the commission, clothing it with powers of a civil court. The main functions of the commission would be to evaluate the progress of development of the minorities, monitor and make recommendations on the working of constitutional safeguards, look into specific complaints and undertake studies and research, suggest appropriate measures, and make periodical reports to the government.

Government has initiated action to implement the judgment of the Supreme Court on issues relating to the reservation of jobs in government for backward classes. Government will specify the basis applying the relevant and requisite socioeconomic criteria to exclude socially advanced persons and sections—the creamy layer—from other backward classes. An ordinance has been promulgated to constitute a permanent body for entertaining, examining, and recommending, upon request, for inclusion and complaints of overinclusion and underinclusion in the lists of other backward classes of citizens. The advice tendered by such body shall ordinarily be binding upon the government. Government proposes to set up the Rashstriya Mahila Kosh [National Women's Fund] to meet the short-term and medium-term developmental credit needs of poor women in the informal sector through intermediary agencies like nongovernment organizations. Funds have been allocated to this program as part of the social safety net effort. A review of the 1986 national policy on education has been undertaken and necessary modifications in the policy were effected in May 1992. Universalization of elementary education, achievement of total literacy, equal access to educational opportunities, women's education and development, vocationalization of secondary education, consolidation of higher education, modernization of technical education, and improvement of the quality, content, and process of education at all levels continue to be the priority areas of national endeavor in the field of education.

In elementary education, we have shifted the focus from mere enrollment to retention and achievement. The revised policy resolves to ensure that free and compulsory education of satisfactory quality is provided to all children up to 14 years of age within this decade. The national literacy mission based on the total literacy campaign strategy has achieved commendable results and 75 percent of the districts in the country will be covered under this mission by 1996-97. The emphasis during the coming years will be on infusing sound management principles in the education system and on decentralizing education management.

There has been encouraging progress in the sphere of science and technology. The successful launch of ASLV [Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle] in May 1992 is a significant development in indigenous launch technology. The launch of INSAT-2 A [Indian National Satellite] in July 1992 and its successful commissioning is an indication of our ability to build sophisticated multipurpose satellites. The planned launches of INSAT-2B and PSLV [Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle] in June this year will provide a further fillip to our space program. Another noteworthy development of 1992 was the completion of the 11th scientific expedition to Antarctica and the launch of the 12th expedition. Ongoing efforts to harness the benefits of biotechnological tools with relevance to agriculture and health would be sustained.

The highlight of this year's achievements in the field of atomic energy has been the 220 megawatt Kakrapar Atomic Power Station, Unit 1, achieving criticality on 3 September 1992 and its synchronization to the grid on 24 November 1992.

Our Armed Forces remain prepared to safeguard our territorial integrity. Improvements in manpower planning and management practices and investments toward self-reliance in defense technologies are yielding results. The armed forces assisted the civil authorities in maintaining law and order and organizing relief and rescue measures on a number of occasions during the year, carrying out their tasks with commendable dedication.

In the field of defense production, determined efforts have been made toward indigenization and self-reliance, particularly in spare parts. In keeping with the changed industrial policies, steps are being taken to foster mutually reinforcing linkages between production units in the defense and civil sectors. Government remains committed to enhance the welfare of serving and retired Armed Forces personnel.

Our foreign policy objectives were pursued both bilaterally and [at] international forums. The emphasis was placed on building up relations with our neighbors. Important visitors to this country included the president of Sri Lanka, the prime minister of Bangladesh, the prime minister of Nepal, and the king of Bhutan. Our ties with these countries have been strengthened as a result of these visits.

During the visit of the Bangladesh prime minister, our commitment to lease the Tin Bigha corridor to Bangladesh was fulfilled. A memorandum of understanding between the two countries on detailed investigations for the important Sankosh multipurpose project was signed during the visit of the king of Bhutan.

Despite Pakistan's continuing support for terrorism and subversion in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, efforts were made by us to resolve various bilateral issues. With this objective in mind, the prime minister had two occasions, two meetings with the prime minister of Pakistan in the course of the last year. Our efforts have unfortunately not made much headway. We urge Pakistan to eschew its path of deliberate and provocative confrontation and its temptation to gain unilateral advantage in its relationship with us. There can be no alternative to the process of bilateral dialogue.

The government has been consistently pursuing a policy of achieving good-neighborly relations with China, overcoming the difficulties of the past. We are also working for a fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question. Among the several high-level visits exchanged between the two countries last year was that of our former president, Shri R. Venkataraman. The Chinese foreign minister, is expected to visit India this year. The prime minister will also be visiting China.

We look forward to working together with President Clinton and his administration in the United States in building a strong relationship between our two countries, based on mutual understanding, trust, and shared values and interests. The changed international environment following the end of the cold war has been an impetus for the strengthening of Indo-U.S. ties which now reflect a greater degree of understanding at the political level along with growing cooperation in various other areas.

The visit of President Yeltsin provided the opportunity for a detailed exchange of views on all bilateral and global issues of concern. Our stand on Kashmir was explained. President Yeltsin categorically affirmed his country's full support for India's position. During this visit the debt repayment issue was resolved and several other agreements were signed which have laid a durable foundation for future friendship and close interaction between the two countries.

We had the pleasure of welcoming in our midst three distinguished heads of government from Western Europe. The British prime minister, Mr. John Major, was here as a chief guest at our Republic Day celebrations. His visit underscored India-U.K. friendship and cooperation and reconfirmed British understanding of our action to uphold democracy and secularism. He extended full cooperation in combating terrorism. A further significant outcome of the visit was the stimulus it gave to India-British economic and commercial cooperation.

Earlier this month, we welcomed the president of the Government of Spain, Mr. Felipe Gonzalez. Most recently, Dr. Helmut Kohl, chancellor of Germany, visited India to receive the Jawaharlal Nehru award for international understanding. These significant visits reflect appreciation overseas of our resilience in addressing the various issues that faced the country as well as the strength of our democratic and secular system. They have also resulted in greater appreciation of our foreign policy as well as in support for our economic reforms program.

The prime minister's visit to Japan in 1992 coincided with the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan and the signing of a peace treaty between the two countries. Japanese interest in our economic liberalization is underscored by the increase in direct Japanese investment in India. We are committed to strengthening our ties with Japan at all levels.

The strengthening of our relations with the newly independent countries of Central Asia with whom we have had age-old cultural ties is a major thrust of our policy. The visit to India last year of the presidents of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan were followed up with high-level visits from India to Central Asia. The prime minister of Tajikistan visited India a few days back. Agreements were signed during these visits which give our relations with the individual Central Asian states a new and long-term perspective.

We welcome the START-II treaty between the United States and Russia for reduction in strategic nuclear arsenal as a step in the right direction. In the field of multilateral disarmament, a noteworthy event has been the successful conclusion of the chemical weapons convention which eliminates an entire class of weapons of mass destruction. This is a universal and nondiscriminatory treaty which should be regarded as a model for future multilateral disarmament negotiations. It provides a strong underpinning to the Indian action plan for global disarmament that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had presented to the United Nations in 1988. A global

and not regional or subregional approach is needed for worthwhile result in this area.

A reinvigorated United Nations with a more sharply focused agenda is a need of the hour. The effectiveness of the United Nations will depend on its ability to democratize and reorder its structures in order to accommodate and reflect the concerns of its members. Our participation in the multilateral level in the UN, NAM [Nonaligned Movement], the Commonwealth, and the G-15 has been within the overall framework of our priorities and concerns. The prime minister's address at the inaugural session of the nonaligned summit in Jakarta last September set the tone of its deliberations, reaffirming the continuing relevance of the NAM and prioritizing its future agenda so as to concentrate upon issues of specific concern to it.

At the UN Conference on Environment and Development, the UNCED, in Rio de Janeiro, in June 1992, the prime minister's address emphasized the integral link between environment and development, thus marking a milestone in international cooperation in tackling environmental and developmental issues. Indian proposal for transfer of technology to and additional resources for developing countries to enable them to join their developed country partners in the global effort at preserving the environment was widely welcomed and endorsed by the conference.

Honorable members, the crisis the country is faced with today places a grave responsibility on your shoulders. You saw remarkable levels of cooperation as also strong area for dissent last year. These are the essential manifestations of a living democracy. I am sure that you will set the tone for the entire country to deal with its problems this year with exemplary conduct and leadership. A nation expects nothing less from its representatives here. You have to guide a nation with courage, wisdom, and discipline. I command you to a task in this session and wish you all success. Jai Hind [hail India].

## Government Prepares To Defend BJP Rally Ban

### Minister on Contingency Plan

*BK2002085693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 20 Feb 93*

[Text] The union minister of state for home, Mr. P.M. Sayeed, says the government will not allow communal forces to tear apart the secular fabric of the country. In an interview with AIR [All India Radio] Shillong correspondent yesterday, Mr. Sayeed said the government has prepared a contingency plan in case the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] tries to defy the ban on its rally in New Delhi on the 25th of this month. The rally cannot be allowed in view of the situation now prevailing in the country following the Ayodhya incidents of 6 December last year. Mr. Sayeed said the BJP should realize its mistake of trying to use religion for capturing power at the center.

Asked about Kashmir, Mr. Sayeed said there is a need to accelerate the process of political contact which was started some time ago.

### Congress Party Spokesman Comments

*BK2202161293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Text] The Congress-I today described as totally baseless Mr. L.K. Advani's charge that the government is gagging the political activities of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said the proposed BJP rally in the capital is banned purely on the basis of law and order assessment.

He said the BJP assurance that the rally will be peaceful cannot be believed after what was witnessed in Ayodhya on the 6th of December last year. Mr. Gadgil said the government has not tried to interfere with the activities of the BJP and its leaders have been going all over the country, holding meetings and press conferences.

The BJP MP's today sat on a three-hour dharna [sit-in agitation] on the lawns of parliament in protest against the alleged police excesses on party workers. Addressing the MPs, the leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani, condemned the arrest of the party workers.

### Rao Rules Out Emergency

*BK2302125393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[Text] The prime minister has made it clear that there is no intention on the part of the government and the Congress-I party to impose emergency. He said the propaganda being carried out by the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] in this regard is totally misleading and irrelevant. Mr. Narasimha Rao was addressing the general body of the Congress-I parliamentary party in New Delhi today. He said the decision not to permit the proposed BJP rally is taken on an assessment of law and order and it is being blown up out of proportion. Mr. Rao said if someone wants to defy the ban order, it becomes illegal and will be dealt with in the usual legal manner. He expressed the hope that the day will pass off peacefully without any untoward incident.

The government today asserted in the Lok Sabha that it will not allow the proposed BJP rally in the capital on Thursday [25 February] and assured of all steps to ensure normal life. Intervening in the special discussion on the rule 193 on the issue, the minister of state for internal security, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, warned that stern action will be taken against those who take the law into their hands. He said the BJP has lost credibility after what happened on the 6th of December at Ayodhya and, therefore, their assurance that the rally will be peaceful cannot be relied upon.

Participating in the discussion, members [word indistinct] BJP and Shiv Sena questioned the assurance of the

BJP that the rally will be peaceful. Initiating the discussion, the leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani, asked the government to withdraw the ban on the proposed rally, saying it violates Article 19 of the Constitution. He alleged that the police are resorting to repressive measures against the BJP workers.

### 'Elaborate' Security Arrangements

*BK2302094693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[Text] Elaborate security arrangements are being made in the capital to strictly enforce the ban on rallies at the Boat Club. Additional paramilitary forces have been deployed and armed pickets are posted in sensitive pockets to maintain law and order in view of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] decision to go ahead with its rally on Thursday [25 February]. A police spokesman said the police has been instructed to foil attempts to enter the Boat Club lawns on that day. He said entry to government buildings in the area will be restricted to identity card holders.

### Over 17,000 BJP Activists Arrested

*BK2302100093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0924 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 23 (AFP)—Troops poured into New Delhi on Tuesday [23 February], turning the city center into a virtual fortress to prevent activists of a Hindu revivalist opposition party from holding a banned rally on Thursday.

Police detained all passengers on an express train after it arrived here from the western state of Gujarat as they moved to weed out activists of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party), witnesses said.

At least 17,000 BJP activists had been arrested as police pursued the anti-BJP crackdown for the third straight day across India, officials said.

The BJP claims that 100,000 supporters planning to attend Thursday's "National Conscience" rally have been detained.

The BJP, with 119 MPs the largest opposition party in parliament, forced a brief adjournment of a crucial budget session in the lower house on Tuesday and walked out of the upper house after disrupting the day's business.

The government has brought in 10,000 paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) troopers and Sikh policemen from the northern states of Kashmir and Punjab to beef up New Delhi's 55,000-strong police department.

"More are coming in on trains," said assistant police commissioner T.S. Bhalla.

He said a four-tier security cordon was being installed around the Boat Club lawns where the BJP plans to stage the rally in defiance of a ban on political demonstrations in the capital for three months.

"We have orders to break their legs... you can quote me," BSF inspector Ashok Hari said as his men held 20 BJP supporters at gunpoint Tuesday after they strayed into the fortress-like downtown area.

Police warned that the entire central district would be sealed off to civilians including journalists later Tuesday or Wednesday, and there would be no guarentees of safety to intruders in the fenced-off Boat Club.

"Shoot me, kill me but I will join the rally," said Vishambar Padak, a BJP activist who arrived here from the western state of Maharashtra.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news agency said police in Bombay arrested 89 BJP activists and local lawmakers when they tried to board a train for New Delhi, and dozens of others were held in Punjab.

It said almost 3,000 BJP supporters including a former minister of the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh have so far been detained.

Parliament reopened after the brief disruptions with BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani accusing the government of imposing an "undeclared emergency" in India by banning rallies in New Delhi for three months.

"These steps betray a sense of desperation and frustration on the part of the government," said Advani, head of the opposition in parliament.

Earlier Tuesday, BJP MPs disrupted the lower house and yelled at speaker Shivraj Patil to protest against the nationwide mass arrests of supporters.

"Shame on the murder of democracy," BJP MPs chanted as others hurled paper missiles inside the house.

The government's fiscal 1993-94 economic survey is to be unveiled in parliament on Tuesday and the railway budget is to be put to a vote on Wednesday. The overall budget is to be released on Saturday.

The BJP called the rally to challenge the 19-month-old government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to mid-term elections and to press for the construction of a Hindu temple on the ruins of the Babri mosque, razed in December by Hindu zealots in the town of Ayodhya.

### Germany's Kohl Discusses Kashmir, Concludes Visit

*BK2202132093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Text] Chancellor Dr. Helmut Kohl says the nonproliferation treaty does not come in the way of strengthening bilateral relations between India and Germany. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi today, he

said that his country is prepared to help narrow down the differences and remove reservations expressed over the issue. Answering wide-ranging questions, Dr. Kohl said that India occupies a prime position in Germany's foreign relations and his country admires New Delhi's commitment to a secular democracy. On Kashmir, he said the issue should be bilaterally resolved by India and Pakistan.

Later, Dr. Kohl was given a ceremonial send-off at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] at the end of his five-day visit to the country.

### Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary Meets Counterpart

*BK1902115293 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Feb 93*

[Text] Bilateral issues were high on agenda in the India-Sri Lanka foreign secretary level talks in New Delhi. Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary Bernard Tilakaratna held discussions with his Indian counterpart, J.N. Dixit, on the agenda of the next India-Sri Lanka joint commission meeting to be held shortly. The proposed visit by the Indian president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, to Sri Lanka at the invitation of the Sri Lankan president was among the main topics discussed by the two foreign secretaries. It was agreed that mutually acceptable modalities should be worked out to settle problems faced by the Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen in the Palks Strait. The two governments will make concerted efforts in this direction. The two foreign secretaries also discussed Indian assistance for setting up an institute of technology in Sri Lanka and bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries.

During his stay in New Delhi, the Sri Lankan foreign secretary is expected to call on the external affairs minister and the secretary to the president.

## Iran

### Envoy in London Denies Report of Being 'Summoned'

*LD2002233193 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 20 Feb 93*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 20, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in London has categorically refuted reports that Iranian Charge d'Affaires Gholamreza Ansari was summoned to the British Foreign Office last Thursday [18 February].

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESS quoting a foreign office spokesman claimed that Ansari had been summoned to the Foreign Office in connection with the death edict against apostate Salman Rushdie.

Terming the report as "incorrect", Ansari told IRNA in London that he had met British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg in order to convey a message from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani for the British officials.

"The message which contained President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's response to some articles of the recent statement by the EC heads of state, should naturally be conveyed by the Iranian diplomatic corps in the EC countries to the heads of these countries," Ansari said.

He said, as head of the Iranian diplomatic mission in London, he handed the message to Hogg. This meeting had no link with the issue of Salman Rushdie whatsoever, he stressed.

### Members of Other Religions Urged To Kill Rushdie

*LD2202163493 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Text] At a meeting today with Mr. [Paul] Dingledine, the Canadian ambassador in Tehran, Majlis Speaker Nateq-Nuri stressed that followers of other religions, particularly Christians, should strive for the destruction of Salman Rushdie. He added: No one should be permitted to toy with the religious beliefs of nations.

He referred to the fact that the rights of millions of human beings in Palestine, Bosnia-Hercegovina, and other parts of the world are being openly trampled on by big powers. He pointed out: How is it that Westerners have taken a serious interest in the rights of Salman Rushdie?

He also said that the hue and cry raised by the West about the violation of human rights in Iran, the defensive strength of the Islamic Republic, and the ballyhoo about the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf were links completing the chain of Western conspiracies against the Islamic revolution. He said: Iran is an independent country and does not receive instructions from anywhere concerning domestic and international issues.

The expansion of economic, commercial, and cultural cooperation between Tehran and Ottawa, the expansion of diplomatic and parliamentary relations and international and regional issues were also discussed at the meeting.

### Foreign Policy Said Not in Line With New World

*NC2102190093 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 9 Feb 93 pp 1, 23*

[Editorial: "The Revolution and Foreign Policy"]

[Text] The foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the important pillars of the revolution and calls for a reassessment 14 years after it was born. As we know, Iran's Islamic Revolution succeeded at a very important phase in the cold war era—the Brezhnev era—and upset many of the calculations of the two superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union—in their regional policies. The start of Iraq's imposed war

on the newly established revolution in Iran, the U.S. formation of the Rapid Deployment Force, and the Red Army's occupation of Afghanistan were among the sudden regional developments in the early eighties.

At that time, Iran's foreign policy was based on the slogan neither East nor West and the differences and disputes between the two superpowers were major factors in determining its friends and foes. As far as this phase of foreign policy is concerned, we should say that because of its involvement in the extensive imposed war and because of its acute political and economic conflicts with the West led by the United States, as well as the occupation of the American Embassy and its aftermath, Iran faced serious political isolation regionally and internationally. Scattered efforts by our foreign policy to break the political and economic siege in this phase did not yield many results, and Iran's active regional and international diplomacy did not go beyond the axis of Syria, Libya, Turkey, Pakistan, North Korea, China, and possibly Japan and Germany.

We passed this phase of foreign policy when our country was able to offer a mixture of sloganeering and realism as an attractive pattern for oppressed movements and nations.

The second phase of the Islamic Republic's foreign policy started with the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the end of the cold war, and the beginning of a unipolar system in the world. Even though four years have passed since the beginning of this phase, the Islamic Republic's foreign strategy has not yet adopted the correct form—at least from a genuine point of view—that can conform with the new conditions and answer the needs that have emerged with these new conditions. Iran's position in the sensitive Persian Gulf region—even now that the allied war against Iraq has ended—is still affected by the consequences of the imposed [Iraq-Iran] war, even though regional conditions have completely changed since the allied war against Iraq. The main reason for this problem should be sought in the absence of a strategy that couples defense with active diplomacy, since the establishment of a well-calculated balance between reliance on military strength and armed forces for ensuring a defense stability and on diplomacy for achieving the same end are genuine requirements for national security. Active diplomacy based on Iran's national and regional interests leads to the establishment of lasting relations with neighbors and is considered an effective security policy that is easier to achieve and more economical in nature when compared with the policy of relying on defense strength and enhancing military potential.

Because of the absence of this doctrine, it can clearly be seen how—despite the end of the war against Iraq—foreign powers, specifically the United States, continue to pose as forces safeguarding security and offer new patterns for security measures. Actually by avoiding more extensive regional cooperation plans—such as the six-plus-two pact—the Islamic Republic's foreign policy gave into two major threats. The first threat stems from the outlook of further dependence by the Persian Gulf's southern states on the West's regional policies, and the second stems from Iran's entry into an endless arms race, the outlook of which is extremely doubtful for various reasons, namely the variety of sources from which arms can be maintained, the various weaponry systems that are available, and the slim possibility of competitiveness as far as the quality and quantity of the arms owned by regional rivals are concerned. Of course, Iran's readiness for wider regional cooperation announced by the president recently paints a hopeful picture.

Meanwhile, in view of the disintegration of the former Soviet Union and the emergence of new horizons facing Iran in Central Asia, hasty steps were taken in the country's foreign policy. These hasty steps offered a doubtful outlook with the planned entry of major rivals such as the United States, Turkey, and Israel onto the scene. The policy of the West and of Turkey in Central Asia was based on a short-term scenario of preserving the traditional communist structures of the newly independent countries to achieve a long-term plan once the newly independent nations accepted and absorbed Western patterns. And instead of striving to create new opportunities for the national forces in these countries—opportunities that could emerge by offering and propagating democracy in parallel with propounding the need for new conditions in countries that had been freed—Iran's policy moved toward the rapid attraction of elements that supported the patterns it had accepted itself. The initial outcome of this policy was the emergence of new hearths of dispersed and growing regional formations vis-a-vis Iran, the future dimensions of which cannot be easily defined.

The most important point in the Islamic Republic's foreign policy since the cold war turns to political relations with Western countries, specifically the United States. In relation with this, it should be noted that the resumption of Iranian-U.S. political relations is a topic that is brought up every so often by the press and inspires various reactions.

The most serious argument by those who oppose these relations is that the Islamic Revolution of Iran is anti-American in nature. Those who support establishing an open dialogue with America as a prologue to normalizing relations emphasize the need to meet genuine needs coupled with preserving the principles that form the basis of the revolution.

The outcome of these disputes so far has been that America has actually been able to transfer the crisis of whether relations with Tehran should be renewed or not into circles inside Iranian society and into Iran's official institutions.

In relation with this, without wanting to assess the views of those who favor or those who oppose these relations, we would like to ask: Can a balanced and wise balance be created between revolutionary sloganeering and genuine

needs so that the periodic arguments that arise every so often can be stopped by adopting a common and lasting strategy?

### Commentary Denounces Turkish 'Blackmail,' Policies

*NC1902215893 Tehran ABRAR in Persian*
*9 Feb 93 p 16*

[Ruzbeh Buolhari commentary: "Blackmail—Ankara Style"]

[Text] The assassination of the Turkish journalist Mumcu, from the daily CUMHURIYET, sparked a new wave of negative propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Iranian public has drawn the conclusion that some circles in Turkey want to upset bilateral relations, which were just beginning to improve, and that an atmosphere of tension has emerged in these relations. Recent remarks by Turkish statesmen, such as [Interior Minister Ismet] Sezgin, leave no doubt that, unfortunately, the anti-Iranian tendencies have found their way into the Demirel government. This comes is at a time when, despite his emphatic remarks that Ankara does not believe Tehran is involved in Turkey's domestic affairs, Foreign Minister Cetin has said that Mumcu's assassins have discussed Tehran's involvement in the murder and in other terrorist operations there. He also implicitly threatened that bilateral relations may once again deteriorate.

Ankara's recent negative stances against the Islamic Republic of Iran may have their root in the following:

—The rousing of negative feelings among the public and officials in Central Asia and the Caucasus against the Islamic Republic of Iran: Demirel's government was unable to get the attention of regional leaders, who met in Ankara last month to endorse Turkey's leadership role, and is worried about the expansion of relations among these countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran, hence its efforts to exploit this ploy and get the support of these leaders.

—During his visit to the Arab emirates, Demirel once again proposed Turkey's participation in regional "security." The Islamic Republic of Iran responded negatively on this comment on the grounds that Turkey is not a Persian Gulf state. Therefore, with the threat that bilateral relations may deteriorate, Turkey wants to blackmail Tehran into accepting Turkish participation in Persian Gulf "security."

—With the victory of Democratic candidate Bill Clinton in the U.S. presidential elections, U.S. officials are talking about opposition to the Islamic Republic of Iran and emphasizing Turkey's role in the region's future. Therefore, the conclusion is drawn that in view of their new regional role, Ankara's leaders are trying to show Turkey's strength to the region's public, at a time when Turkey's adventurisms in the past months, namely its air aggression against Iran, failed.

It is noteworthy that the Islamic Republic has asked the Demirel government for an official apology. This process began with the cancellation of the visit by our First Vice President Dr. Habibi to Turkey and can have negative political and economic consequences for Ankara.

### Turkey Urged To Avoid 'Poisonous Atmosphere'

*NC2102101893 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian*
*14 Feb 93 p 16*

[Ahmad 'Azizi commentary: "Turkey and Its Identity Crisis"]

[Text] Propagandistic insinuations by high-ranking Turkish officials during the past few days following the assassination of a Turkish journalist—and their concordance with some of the Turkish press, which apparently have no other mission but to upset the good relations between the two neighboring countries—indicate Turkey's unstable behavior and even its detachment from regional developments and its long-term interests.

Turkish Prime Minister Demirel's emphatic statements to the mass media after he met with the head of the joint [Iranian-Turkish] economic cooperation committee and discussed the need for Iran's cooperation in investigating a murder which, facts show, was perpetrated by forces opposing good relations between the two countries; his insistence on the need to prove that Iran was not involved in this incident, despite the competent efforts made through diplomatic channels; and even the fact that joint cooperation bodies have been established do not conform at all with the Turkish politicians' intentions and positions favoring amicable bilateral relations.

If the spiteful commotion by some opinionated Turkish newspapers over this issue did not come as a surprise, the concordance of the Turkish prime minister and the Turkish foreign minister with their stance is completely unjustified. The mere utterance of such remarks once again could exacerbate the poisonous atmosphere that prevailed after the unprincipled detention of the Cape Maleas—an atmosphere which was partly eased after the ship was allowed to sail following Demirel's visit to Iran. The repetition and continuation of this situation definitely will affect the strategic interests of the two neighboring and Muslim countries. The logic behind the Turkish Government's efforts to create such a poisonous atmosphere every so often—despite the great significance of political and economic relations—is not clear. The only justification that can be found for this situation is that Turkey oscillates between the demands of its relations with the West and those of its relations in the region.

Our Turkish friends should know that fully enjoying all the existing economic capabilities and favorably advancing political bonds between the two countries calls for the creation and continuation of a favorable long-term atmosphere. The Islamic Republic's diplomatic channels should clarify to Turkish officials that in the midst of its identity crisis, Turkey cannot always seek

a balance that favors it in carrying out its Western role against Iran and in meeting its long-term political and economic interests regarding the world of Islam and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The two countries' effective economic cooperation in the significant and growing Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO; the close political cooperation in the critical Balkan area in view of the bleak perception that the crisis will spread to Kosovo, Macedonia, and Albania in the foreseeable future; and, finally, the strategic cooperation between the two countries and Syria in confronting the West's plots in northern Iraq are three pivots. Joint efforts in all three fields can succeed only if a favorable political atmosphere exists. It is regrettable that Turkish politicians fanned the flames of the unhealthy propaganda atmosphere against Iran at a time when the foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey, and Syria were meeting in Damascus to discuss the most significant national security issues concerning the three countries.

Iran's policy of self-restraint during the past months—despite the existence of some domestic pressure—has been in conformity with the strategic interests of the two neighboring and Muslim nations. It is hoped that despite foreign pressure, the Turkish politicians also will always be steadfast in the effort to achieve common interests.

## Opposition Leader on Regime's Foreign Policy

*NC1402103093 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1800 GMT 12 Feb 93*

[Third and last part of address by Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, to the "noble people of Iran" on the 14th anniversary of the Islamic revolution on 10 February, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Everything in Iran comes from abroad. This means that the main suppliers are outside the country and goods are hidden in the back rooms of stores, perhaps for the consumption of the clerics. As far as the people of Iran and international public opinion are concerned, and in the eyes of all commentators and observers, it is not in the least important. What is for all eyes to see is the constant whining and complaining by the regime in the course of the year with regard to the projects [words indistinct]

The main issue is the Iranian national resistance and the people of Iran, which the clerics refuse to accept, even when they are on the verge of being toppled and destroyed, just as the pharaoh was drowning and was forced to admit to what he had denied all along! The aerial bombing, terrorist actions, and false propaganda against the MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], by the mullahs' intelligence have been of no use all these years. Khomeyni's clerics are doomed to the fate in store for them when they are toppled by the National Liberation Army [NLA] of the MKO, which they will not be able to avoid.

We have said that Khomeyni and all his turbaned satyrs have perpetrated countless heinous crimes. They are the annihilators of Iran and its population. Iran today, on the other hand, has a different face and this unprecedented resistance is laudable. [passage indistinct]

Once again the people of the world have realized that the Iranian National Resistance Council of the MKO, with its reliance on its military arm, the NLA, and with the support of the people, in the course of the protests and demonstrations in Iran over the past few months, is able to establish freedom and democracy in Iran.

The Iranian resistance has shattered the clerical regime's plot on the subject of human rights and managed at the recent UN session, which is the highest international authority, to get the resolution condemning the Khomeyni regime for its violation of human rights approved by the international community.

Once again we are seeking an oil and military embargo on this regime and to wrest Iran's seats in international organizations. While political victories and the situation of the popular national resistance of the MKO have aroused the fury and fear of the remnants of the Khomeyni regime, which are carried in the regime's media daily, the clerical dictatorship is constantly confronted with mounting condemnation and isolation from the world.

The position of the clerics is also in a political impasse. This regime does not have the ability or strength to endure the circumstances created by many years of continuous war and by the policies during the years when Khomeyni was alive. It could not attain any political success in the path Hashemi-Rafsanjani delineated. An example of the disgraceful political defeat of the regime, the blow that it suffered on its face, is its position with regard to the regional Arab countries.

As is known, at the end of the Persian Gulf war—from which the vestiges of Khomeyni filled their coffers, even anticipating greater profits in the future through friendship with the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms—the mercenary deputy foreign minister of the regime, Besharati, said: We are seeking a role in the future regional security arrangements in the Persian Gulf. He stressed that our proximity and friendship is bringing us closer to our neighbors. [passage omitted]

The littoral states inflicted a blow in the regime's face and said that no role has been envisaged for Iran in the regional security arrangements. Then they exacerbated their differences with Iran's regime and its brainless clerics, who profess to be political geniuses, by giving them the cold shoulder.

In all cases, we are aware that from Albania, Egypt, and Zimbabwe to the EC conference and many Arab-African countries, all condemn this antihistorical regime. In these circumstances, the bankrupt clerical dictatorship has not been able to reap any benefits from its international plots and ploys against the Iranian resistance, and

has not even been able to resolve any of its domestic problems. It is inextricably enmeshed in a fatal impasse. [passage omitted]

A foreign diplomat stated that the Iranian regime has fallen in a trap. Either Hashemi-Rafsanjani's line will be implemented—but this will result in a social explosion—or it will be delayed, which will result in economic destruction. I wish to add that the ultimate and imminent result will be the collapse of the criminal dictatorship of the clerics at the hands of the NLA, with the support of all the people of Iran.

It is not without reason that the frightened clerics see their salvation through terrorist activities and disseminating falsehoods and ambiguities to boost the shattered morale of all the national forces. Their dastardly efforts, which only betray the intensity of their own poverty and penury, will lead to the utter depletion of the resources of the relics of Khomeyni.

Khomeyni's reactionary nature was unable to harness the liberated forces of the antimonarchical revolution to direct the country toward democracy and economic and social expansion. Therefore, he wanted the liberated forces to be divided among themselves. For this purpose, he sentenced their elite figures, the cream of Iran's offspring, to torture and execution. The remainder, even his own forces, were sent into the inferno of an unpatriotic war. Thus Khomeyni's historical role involved nothing more than death, decimation, and devastation.

However, with the blessings of the bloodshedding resistance of the Iranian people, with the assistance of the selfless and alert progeny of the land of Iran, the flag of resistance continued to fly high. [passage omitted]

Now this regime—which is without a head or tail—is struggling for its life in the quagmire of annihilation. On the other hand, if you had taken a closer look at the MKO and the combatants of the NLA, and if you had been more closely acquainted with these (?valiant) brothers, if you had seen the Iranian resistance at close quarters all over the world, you would have exulted and been proud of being Iranian.

Khomeyni was the exterminator of an entire nation, the messenger of destruction and annihilation, while the Mojahedin and the Iranian resistance are harbingers of life, prosperity, and the happiness of the people of Iran. This revolutionary resistance movement is forging ahead on the path of greatness and depth, more than ever before.

The NLA is upgrading its combat readiness more and more. The National Resistance Council is making progress in its expansion and in compiling the resistance's parliament and the legislative body for the transitional period.

This was possible because of the nobility and efforts of a generation that has given up everything for the freedom of the people and the homeland. Blessings on the land of Iran, and the brilliant future [words indistinct] on the women of the NLA.

These turbaned hyenas have been looming over Iranian men and women, over Iran and Iranians, over Islam and messages of humanitarianism, for so many years. Today they are the ones flailing in the quicksand of destruction and there is no question about their downfall! The day for avenging all the bloodshed and all the pristine efforts is not far off. Yes, Iran and the Iranians will certainly be liberated. The accursed dictatorship of the clerics will be toppled at the hands of the NLA, with the support of the people of Iran.

Peace, freedom, and the sovereignty of the people will be established on the shackled soil of Iran! Dear compatriots, please await the arrival of that day, welcome the NLA, and raise the cry of protest and resistance against the filthy enemy, in whatever way and as much as you can, as loudly as possible.

Peace be upon the people, upon freedom! May the antihuman Khomeyni regime fall! May the NLA live long and may the National Resistance Council be victorious! May the interim government of the democratic Islamic Republic of Iran be set up soon!

## Commentary Defends Nation's Weapons Purchases

*NC1902215193 Tehran SALAM in Persian 15 Feb 93 p 2*

[M. Parhizgar commentary: "In the Margin of the Ordnance Exhibition in Abu Dhabi"]

[Text] The international weapons exhibition opens in Abu Dhabi at a time when regional crises, an unstable atmosphere, border disputes and internal unrest are part of daily life, especially in regions of geophysical importance.

During the cold war, when a region acquired a semblance of stability based on deterrence, the sales, purchases, and assistance in the types of arms was considered a strategic issue. On the basis of this strategy, the world powers considered themselves authorized to arm their allies with the most advanced weapons.

With the collapse of the bipolar system, the structure and form of the international system is so fluid that the possibility of a regional conflict or bilateral or multilateral dispute has been heightened.

The Persian Gulf war was considered the forerunner of regional instability in the struggle to attain regional or international interests. Ever since that war, there have been numerous controversies about the role of weapons in the Middle East.

Some have stressed the need for Middle East arms control and have approved UN General Assembly Resolution L-36-46 [as published], under the title: "Disclosure of Arms Without Any Discrimination."

U.S. idealists insisted on a multilateral Middle East arms embargo; the realist Republicans, on the other hand, followed a policy of discriminatory arms sales. According to this policy, only countries that were part of the U.S. coalition, or that protected, safeguarded, and supported U.S. vital and security interests, were sold complex weaponry.

The international arms exhibition, inaugurated yesterday in Abu Dhabi, should be viewed as a new step in the strategy of Middle East arms sales.

Something noteworthy in this exhibition, in addition to the vast array of countries producing military armaments, is the activity of companies and firms that manufacture arms and the presence of the allied naval units participation, along with Russia, in naval-commercial exercises. [sentence as published] The presence of 120 U.S. companies, among which 27 are manufacturing firms for aerial weapons and equipment, indicates the bias of the exhibition and the objectives of the UAE [United Arab Emirates] in hosting the exhibition.

In view of its extensive borders on the coastline of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, the Islamic Republic of Iran possesses naval equipment, destroyers and submarines, as is seeking to safeguard the security of its borders in the region. However, this very legitimate action incurred the great contempt of the United States, the littoral states of the Persian Gulf, and the compromising Arab governments, all of which embarked on a large-scale propaganda campaign on Iran's purchase of Russian submarines. They accused Iran of being the cause of regional instability. Today those who claim the need for arms control are themselves resorting to new weapons and methods to confront Iran's position and secure borders.

The United States, France, Britain, and Russia have on display Patriot and surface-to-surface missiles, scores of warships, destroyers, "anti-submarine warships," in addition to other missiles and naval accoutrements, special helicopters for destroying warships, "anti-submarines," and anti-radar devices.

The weapons on display in Abu Dhabi are aimed at eliciting the attention of the regional Arab countries and at inciting and provoking them to fight the Islamic Republic of Iran. Obviously, they intend to secure political and economic benefits this way.

## Importance of Cooperation With Mexico Viewed

*NC2202092393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati visited Mexico on the second leg of his tour of Latin American countries. On the conclusion of his visit to Mexico, the two countries signed a joint statement on the preliminaries for broadening bilateral relations and cooperation on international issues. Efforts to create the appropriate procedure for commercial exchanges, ways and means to transfer technology, and pooling experience in the oil, gas, and petrochemical industries are among the topics mentioned in the joint Iranian-Mexican statement.

It is also specified in the statement that the joint commission of the two countries will meet once a year in the capital of one of the countries. On the basis of mutual agreement, the first joint commission will meet in the first half of 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993] in Tehran. This rotating convocation of the joint commission is significant as it affords an opportunity for the two countries to meet regularly to assess the scope and possibilities for broadening bilateral relations and to eliminate any obstacles to this, thus constituting a firm basis for expanding cooperation.

In view of the possibilities the two countries can collaborate in the heavy industries, oil, gas, and petrochemicals and to cater to reciprocal needs. In addition, since both countries are oil exporters, their cooperation in petroleum strategies can ensure their respective interests. It can also bring them much closer.

In addition to commercial and industrial cooperation, political cooperation has also been envisaged. The two countries note that political visits can result in greater proximity of their respective views and they call for broadening political relations and exchanging diplomatic delegations. Since both countries belong to the group of developing countries in the south, they can cooperate with one another on international issues.

In the new international circumstances, and in this period of transition from a bipolar to the current system, most of the experts view the rivalry between north and south as almost inevitable. In this rivalry, the countries of the north can—by using the instruments of power at their disposal—create conditions to exert pressure on the countries of the south, which makes south-south cooperation imperative to combat domination by the north.

Commenting on the above in his address to the Mexican parliamentary representatives, Velayati described the efforts of the countries of the north to impose their domination over the south in the name of the new world order as the cause of disarray and instability in international relations and stressed the need for cooperation among countries of the south to ward off domination by the north.

In light of the above, the cooperation between Iran and Mexico with regard to international issues can ensure the interest of the two countries and consolidate south-south cooperation, thereby making it of extreme importance.

### Foreign Minister Velayati Visits Mexico 18-19 Feb

*WA2302084593*

For reportage on the visit by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Mexico, including reports on his talks with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, please see the Mexico section of the 23 February Latin America DAILY REPORT.

### Political, Economic Cooperation With Cuba Viewed

*LD2202133493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1102 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Iranian foreign minister visited Cuba on the third leg of his trip to Latin America. Following Dr. Velayati's trip to Cuba—which took place at the invitation of that country's vice president—Iranian and Cuban officials assessed the grounds of cooperation between the two countries. The two sides held talks on commercial, industrial, agricultural, and medical cooperation and on the exchange of sugar and oil. The two countries believe that extensive grounds for the expansion of cooperation exist.

Politically speaking, both Iran and Cuba adopted the strategy of nonalignment after their respective revolutions and began to confront the domineering efforts of big powers. To that end, both countries have constantly faced threats and pressure by big powers. Considering the fact that, under current conditions the big powers are trying to expand their domination of the world within the framework of the new world order, Iranian-Cuban cooperation on international issues will lead to activity by the Nonaligned Movement and the collective of southern countries. Moreover, it could prevent the realization of an order that only reflects the interests of domineering powers.

Regarding trade and industry, Iran and Cuba have certain resources at their disposal that complement each others' needs. Cuba previously obtained its fuel from the Soviet Union. It is facing a shortage of fuel following the collapse of the Eastern Bloc. Iran, as a country with oil as its main export, can provide Cuba's fuel requirements. Cuba, for its part—considering its exports—can provide some of the requirements of the Iranian market. Cuba is one of the world's largest exporters of sugar. Sugar and its derivatives account for 85 percent of Cuba's exports. Cuba could, therefore, fulfill Iran's requirements for these commodities.

In its first development program, Iran has considered the expansion of sugar cane cultivation and its sugar industry. The use of extensive investment and vast experiences of that country in the sugar industry can be effective in advancing our country's economic programs.

### Velayati Arrives in Cuba for Talks 21 Feb

*WA2302124093*

For reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Cuba, including reports on his talks with Minister of Foreign Relations Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada and President Fidel Castro, please see the Cuba section of the 23 February Latin America DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

### Velayati Returns After Latin American Tour

*LD2302092293 Tehran IRNA in English 0820 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati wound up his week-long tour of three Latin American countries and returned home from Havana Tuesday [23 February] morning.

Issues of mutual interest, bilateral relations and key international developments were among topics discussed during Velayati's meetings with the presidents, parliament speakers and foreign ministers of Brazil, Mexico and Cuba.

Velayati visited the Latin American countries at the invitations of his Brazilian and Mexican counterparts and Cuban vice-president.

## Nepal

### Prime Minister Comments on Bhutanese Refugee Issue

*BK2202050093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Text] The Nepalese prime minister, Mr. G.P. Koirala, says the problem of Bhutanese refugees in Nepal will be resolved through bilateral talks. Addressing the country's parliament yesterday, he said if the talks fail, he will seek India's help. Mr. Koirala said an all-party meeting will also be called to find ways to solve the issue. AIR Kathmandu correspondent reports that during the prime minister's, Mr. Narasimha Rao's, visit to Kathmandu in October last year India had made it clear that this is a bilateral matter and should be resolved through talks between Nepal and Bhutan.

### Prime Minister Criticizes Antidemocratic Elements

*BK2102010493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1848 GMT 20 Feb 93*

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 20 (AFP)—Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala accused Saturday anti-democratic elements of trying to defame and weaken the country's fledgling democracy, state radio said.

Addressing a public rally at Birgung, Koirala said anti-democatic elements had again started to raise their heads to spread propaganda against democracy, the radio reported late Saturday.

The country would not be able to achieve its development targets unless its people extended hands of cooperation to the government, he said.

"Water resources, tourism and human resources would help to accelerate the development of the national economy," he said. "Only after the development of Nepal's vast water resources, the country can attain its goals."

Minister of State for Education Govinda Raj Joshi [title as received] told the rally the government was determined to accelerate the pace of development of the country's economy as far as resources would allow.

## Pakistan

### Government To Airdrop Relief Supplies in Bosnia

*BK2302144993 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has decided to rush a planeload of food items and relief goods to the besieged enclaves in eastern Bosnia, where the Muslim population is suffering from acute hunger and starvation. The prime minister's decision to airdrop relief supplies is in consonance with Pakistan's principled policy in respect of Bosnia-Hercegovina. For many months now, Pakistan along with other Islamic countries had called for the unhindered and expeditious dispatch of urgently needed relief assistance to the people of that country.

The new U.S. Administration recently invited other countries to join in its efforts to feed the starving Bosnians through airdrops. Pakistan welcomes this decision, which is in keeping with our own strong commitment to the strict observance of international humanitarian law in Bosnia.

### Gambian Foreign Minister Visits for Talks

*BK2202144493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 Feb 93*

[Text] The visiting minister for external affairs of Gambia, Alhajji Omar Bin Sey, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [presidential palace] today and discussed with him matters of common interest. During the meeting satisfaction was expressed at the depth and direction of bilateral relations and the desire was reiterated to further promote them. Foreign Secretary Shaharyar M. Khan was also present on the occasion.

The foreign minister of Gambia, Alhajji Omar Bin Sey, arrived in Islamabad today on a three-day official visit to Pakistan. At the airport he was received by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo. Talking to newsmen, the Gambian foreign minister expressed his country's full support to Pakistan's stand on the Kashmir issue. He said Kashmir, being a major problem, should be resolved in accordance with UN resolutions. He urged India to respect human rights of Muslims in India as well as in occupied Kashmir. Alhajji Omar also expressed concern over the demolition of Babri Masjid [mosque] and demanded its immediate reconstruction at its original site.

### Commission To Boost Trade

*BK2302092793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[Text] Pakistan and Gambia have agreed to set up a joint ministerial commission to increase bilateral trade. The agreement was reached during a meeting between visiting Gambian Foreign Minister Alhajji Omar Bin Sey and Asif Ahmad Ali, the minister of state for economic affairs, in Islamabad yesterday. They also agreed to exchange trade delegations between the two countries. The Gambian foreign minister also held talks with Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, the minister of state for foreign affairs, on regional and international issues, including Kashmir, Afghanistan, Bosnia-Hercegovina, and the problems facing the Islamic community.

### Bilateral Relations Discussed

*BK2302150993 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[Text] Mr. Alhajji Omar Bin Sey, Gambia's foreign minister, called on the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, in Islamabad today. During the meeting they discussed matters of mutual interest and expressed satisfaction over friendly relations between Pakistan and Gambia. The prime minister expressed the hope that bilateral relations between the two countries would be further strengthened by the visit of the minister of external affairs of Gambia. The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, was also present on the occasion.

### Editorial Views Kanjoo's Remarks on U.S. Ties

*BK1902125193 Islamabad THE NATION in English 19 Feb 93 p 6*

[Editorial: "Reviewing Ties With US"]

[Text] Initiating the foreign policy debate in the National Assembly, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Siddique Kanjoo has spoken of the US's continuing policy of discrimination against Pakistan. Apart from the nuclear issue which the Minister said had virtually been turned into a single-track campaign against Pakistan, courtesy Pressler Amendment, Washington has also deemed it fit to single out Pakistan for what it calls alleged sponsorship of 'terrorism'. Placing Pakistan on the 'watch list' of states sponsoring 'terrorism' has been the 'unkindest cut of all', and by initiating this move the State Department has clearly brought the message home that all freedom-fighters do not ipso facto get Washington's clearance. On the contrary they have to fit in the grand US design to qualify for the honoured status. Pakistan has been put in

the dock, as the Minister pointed out, for expressing solidarity with Kashmiri freedom-fighters, as if India's occupation of Kashmir and the reign of terror it has unleashed to break the will of the Kashmiris demanding right to self-determination, has no meaning whatsoever for the self-designated champions of human rights.

Mr Kanjoo was candid enough to hold the Americans responsible for nuclear proliferation in South Asia. If a blatantly selective and discriminatory law like the Pressler Amendment, which sees no threat to peace and security in the region beyond Pakistan's modest nuclear programme, is deemed by the Americans as the only deterrent against nuclear proliferation in South Asia, then they are themselves to blame for letting a 'nuclear race' in the region remain in vogue. If the Indians are treated as more equal than others in the region and allowed to get away with their nuclear programme as well as virtual genocide of the subjugated Kashmiris, Washington's constant browbeating of Pakistan can only be seen as an arbitrary and onesided pressure to force Pakistan into toeing a line that does not conform to its national interest. If the price for winning back American friendship is to roll back the nuclear programme and abandon support for the Kashmiri freedonm-fighters then it would be advisable for Pakistan to give up hopes of, what the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs has called, 'establishing a new and mature relationship on the basis of principles of sovereign equality, mutual rcespect and non-discrimination'. As long as the Americans are blinded by their biases and do not see the need to treat issues like nuclear proliferation and terrorism objectively and even- handedly, no matter who occupies the White House, the chances of improving Pak-US relations appear to be as remote as they have been ever since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the demise of the cold war as a factor in international politics.

### Paper on Possible Assassination Attempt on Hekmatyar

*BK2102123193 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Feb 93 p 6*

[Editorial: "Afghan Situation Taking New Turn?"]

[Text] A new twist to the Afghan situation has surfaced. This could be a joint commando operation between the United States and the Rabbani administration to eliminate the Hezb-e Eslami chief Golboddin Hekmatyar. It is believed that Qazi Hussain Ahmed, the Pakistani Jamiat Islami [JI] chief, is at present in Kabul to apprise Hekmatyar of the possible plot against his life. This makes sense since Qazi Hussain Ahmed has been openly supporting Hekmatyar both during the Afghan popular struggle against the Russian interventionist troops and the civil war which has been raging in the aftermath of the Soviet military withdrawal. Rabbani and his government believe that the Pakistan JI is party to the conflict between the ruling regime and the Hezb-e Eslami has been openly taking sides with the rebel leader. As for the presence of the American commandos in the country, it was Qazi Hussain Ahmed who had revealed their landing in Peshwar on their way to Afghanistan. It was later, after meeting Qazi, that Hekmatyar categorically conceded that the American commandos planned to set him aside. This was a significant development as otherwise the Hezb had remained non-committal on the arrival of the commandos and its only reaction hiterto has been, "wait and see." The latest development places Hekmatyar in an awkward spot since he had been striving to capture Kabul through force of arms but now has to make arrangements for his personal security against joint action by the Kabul regime and the Americans. Added to that is the worry that the arms and ammunition he had managed to store over the years are being fast expended and he has nowhere to go for replenishments.

Hekmatyar has been by far the most charismatic of the leaders of the Afghan resistance. If he is indeed sidetracked, the civil war in Afghan may well come to an early end since it is not known whether his Hezb has an effective chain of command and can carry out its conflict with the administration after he is gone. That would change the complexion of the developing Afghan scenario. Whether for the better or worse only time would tell.

This leaves two questions to be answered, the presence of the American commandos in Pakistan and the visits of two Pakistani delegations to Kabul in quick succession. We have had joint military excercises with the United States in the past but their commanders were never part of these. Then, of course while economic and military aid to Pakistan of equipment already contracted and paid for is stopped, joint military manoeuvers or training of Pakistani Armed Forces personnel by the US are also forbidden. What, then, are the American commandos doing here? If Qazi Hussain Ahmed is right in that they are here to assist the Rabbani administration to deal with Hekmatyar, why could they not have gone to Kabul directly for the purpose without first landing in Pakistan? Since they have been allowed to do this, it is a contradiction of the Pakistan Government's avowed policy of not interfering in the affairs of Afghanisan. Just as the visits of Pakistan delegations are. The first in which Federal Minister Ejazul Haq and ex-ISI [Interservices Intelligence] chief Gen Hameed Gul were prominent and then the JI team. [last two sentences as published] We had touched on the latter point in these columns earlier but the government has still to give some indication of whether these delegations embarked on their visits with its blessings or not. If not, action should be initiated against these self-appointed operators on their return. Meanwhile, we would still advocate that the Afghans be left to sort out their own problems.

### Paper Criticizes India's Refusal To Sign NPT

*BK2202095793 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 22 Feb 93 p 7*

[Editorial: "India's Self-Serving Nuclear Ideals"]

[Text] India's consistent refrain that it will not ratify the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT], because it is a discriminatory document, is wearing a bit thin. After German Chancellor Helmut Kohl bluntly asked India on Friday to endorse the NPT, Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma maintained New Delhi's stock phrases, trotted out for such occasions, that discriminatory stipulations would not help in achieving the objective of universal and total disarmament. What New Delhi seems incapable of realising is that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in South Asia is a far more immediate threat than the possiblility of a nuclear confrontation between official members of the nuclear club. India can wax philosoophical about achieving global disarmament, but the reality is that such a situation will probably not occur for decades.

The major nuclear power powers are moving towards reducing their nuclear arsenals but global disarmament is a Utopian ideal. That is, perhaps, what New Delhi is counting on. By clinging to an idealistic concept, India cannot be faulted by the world. In reality, India continues to pursue a nuclear programme, that for all intents and purposes, is perceived from Islamabad as potentially hostile.

It is about time that Western powers, who wield not only political but economic clout, suggest to India that it cannot go its own way on nuclear issues and still be the beneficiary of international assistance and trade. Chancellor Kohl has taken the first step by formally asking India to endorse the NPT, by linking German investment in India to the nuclear issue. The next step has to come from the United States. Washington created a fuss about the sale of Russian rocket technology to India last year, but failed to follow up on that by discussing India's nuclear programme and demanding that New Delhi ratify the NPT and allow international inspection of its nuclear installations.

Yet the US is currently targeting Pakistan for failure to curb its nuclear programme. Islamabad justifiably maintains that it will not sign the NPT on a unilateral basis. India is now seeking an entry into global markets and seeking foreign investors. If the US opposes applying terms of the Pressler Amendment to India, then an alternative would be to link foreign investment to the nuclear issue. India continues to cloak its intentions in the guise of high ideals, many of which end up suiting its own purpose. After all, who can argue with a country that seeks global disarmament? But charity begins at home. Perhaps India should clean up its own act before pontificating about world peace and global disarmament.

## Sri Lanka

### LTTE Suffers Casualties in Eastern Province

*BK2302120493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] suffered heavy casualties during the last three days at the hands of the security forces in separate incidents in the eastern province. The troops also recovered many left-behind items such as food, weapons and munitions, and terrorist literature. The Joint Operations Command told LANKAPUVATH that the largest losses to the terrorists were reported when troops of Operation (Ranavese) successfully overran an LTTE camp located west of Kuchchaveli in the Trincomalee District. Amidst the terrorist resistance, the security forces launched an attack on the jungle hideout and the terrorists abandoned the camp and retreated into the jungle. Later, the soldiers found three newly dug graves and blood stains, indicating LTTE's heavy casualty toll. The troops suffered no casualties. The troops of the ongoing operation located another terrorist camp consisting of 15 bunkers and a few huts on the same day.

### LTTE Denies Allegation of 'Nazi-Like' Camps

*BK2302080093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0638 GMT 23 Feb 93*

[Text] Colombo (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil Tiger guerrillas Tuesday denied charges of holding up to 4,000 prisoners in Nazi-like concentration camps.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said they had detained no more than 200 people at any one time on charges of "spying and treason."

They rejected allegations by a group of university teachers from the LTTE-controlled northern Jaffna peninsula that the rebels modelled their prison administration on the Nazi and Stalinist regimes.

"At a particular time not more than 200 prisoners were kept in detention pending completion of the investigations of alleged offences including treason and spying," the LTTE said in a statement from its London office.

The LTTE said the authors of the report were not from Jaffna.

"We understand that reports are written in Colombo and London without having any knowledge of the conditions prevailing in the Tamil homeland," the statement added.

It said the LTTE "will not be deterred by attempts of faceless persons or organisations to tarnish its image but will continue to strive for human rights and the right of self determination of the Tamil people."

The teachers' group said last week, "The whole pattern of camps and the meticulous administration of the system give the appearance of being consciously drawn from films and books about the Nazi and Stalinist prison complexes."

The London-based Amnesty International [AI] has also criticised the human rights record of the Tigers, who have been accused of killing thousands of civilians.

"The LTTE also executed prisoners accused of being traitors," AI said in its latest report, which was also critical of the Colombo government for not fully implementing promised action to prevent rights abuses by its own side.

AI could not verify the number of prisoners held by the LTTE but said reports consistently put the figure at over 2,000. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was denied access to Tamil prisoners, AI said.

"Forces of the LTTE committed numerous gross abuses of human rights, including the deliberate killing of hundreds of non-combatant Moslem and Sinhalese civilians, the arbitrary killing of civilians in bomb attacks on buses and trains, the torture and killing of prisoners, and abductions for ransom," the AI report said.

The LTTE is leading a 20-year-old guerrilla campaign to establish an independent Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka's northeast where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated.